

Smith turnabout may mean British role in talks on Rhodesia

Britain has been all but invited to take part in the constitutional talks on Rhodesia, Mr Ian Smith indicated in Salisbury yesterday in what he acknowledged was a change of tactics. Mr Callaghan has sent Mr

Smith a message and yesterday he received a reply. But the fear in London is that the Rhodesian leader may once again be playing for time and there is doubt that his attitude has changed.

Salisbury admits change of tactics

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Feb 20

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, has all but invited the British Government to take part in talks aimed at achieving a constitutional settlement for Rhodesia. He told Parliament today that if Britain was prepared to make what he called a realistic effort to assist in a settlement he would give serious consideration to the idea.

In what can only be interpreted as a serious turnabout in policy, the Rhodesian leader admitted that a stage had been reached in the history of Rhodesia when there had to be a change of tactics. The talks between Mr Smith and Mr Joshua Nkomo, the African national Council leader, are to resume in Salisbury at Thursday. It is now feared that a senior British envoy and his staff will live in time to take their case round the table.

Mr Smith said in his speech, in grave tones before a legislative Assembly that was equally full of gloom after the "war of nerves" it had been manually agreed between the British and Rhodesian governments that there had to be a change of tactics over the settlement issue.

All previous negotiations had been on a government-to-government basis. It was agreed that an effort should be made to try to reach an internal settlement by direct negotiation between the Rhodesian Government and the African leaders within Rhodesia.

After the African National Council, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, had rejected an agreement reached between Mr Smith and the bishop in June, 1974, the ANC tried to persuade the British Government to call a constitutional conference in London, and they kept up this pressure until about the middle of last year, when the British Government, said Mr Smith, declined to do so.

no doubt because they had judged quite correctly that he would not attend. He did not believe such a conference would succeed.

He was convinced that the best hope of success lay in close and detailed discussions between a small number of principals from each side and he was happy when Mr Nkomo made this suggestion at their last meeting.

"However, there is a greater urgency today because of the changed circumstances. In Southern Africa, although the immediate Russian objective is but one step towards their aim of depriving the free world of their strategic mineral requirements, which they obtain from these areas, and at the same time giving the communists control of the vital Cape sea route."

Mr Smith added: "The most recent development in the settlement issue is a communication which I have received from the British Foreign Secretary. I have today sent my reply to him. Clearly, because of the Russian attempt to eliminate the influence of the free world from the southern portion of the African continent, a new situation presents itself. Accordingly, once again I believe we have reached a stage in our history where it could be beneficial to change our tactics."

"If the British Government is prepared to make a constructive and realistic effort to assist in our settlement, then I believe we must give this serious consideration. Many Rhodesians have no doubt concerned, he said, at the irresponsible utterances about Rhodesia which had recently emanated from certain quarters of the British Government. He shared this concern.

"However, I know from experience that some politicians have the habit of making speeches in order to impress particular audiences. Accordingly, these change to fit in with varying circumstances. In time we will find out what the true attitude of the British Government is towards Rhodesia."

"It may well be that in this past effort, as has happened in the past, we shall not succeed in reaching our goal of a settlement. The task is a formidable one. Nevertheless, I am convinced that it is our duty to try and try honestly and sincerely and to the very best of our ability."

Earlier in his speech, Mr Smith referred to brutal treatment by guerrillas of a tribesman whose ears, fingers and toes had been sliced off. He hoped the World Council of Churches took note of what had happened. Let them cease saluting their consciences by claiming that they provide only what they called humanitarian aid for the terrorists, secure in the knowledge that the weapons, the land mines, the bombs are provided by the communists."

There was a general welcome by most political groups in Rhodesia for Mr Smith's speech. Mr Nkomo said he was pleased with the decision to approach Britain and two white opposition parties said the Prime Minister had at last faced the reality of the situation.

Mr Mark Doyle, executive officer of the Rhodesia Party, said: "We will have to shed the attitudes, comfortable and self-satisfying as they may have been, and come to grips with the Africa of the seventies."

Mr Patrick Bashford, president of the Liberal Centre Party, said Russian involvement in Southern Africa was obviously added an entirely new dimension. Mr Smith was wise to adopt an entirely fresh tactical approach.

But Mr William Harper, leader of the right-wing United Conservative Party, disagreed. By asking Britain, "we could end up with something worse than the five principles."

Danger to South Africa, page 6
Leading article, page 15

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Danger to South Africa, page 6
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Rail unions lodge new demand for £80m

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff

Railway workers have lodged an £80m pay claim, which could involve another increase in fares later this year. They have asked for a substantial increase from May 1, but in fact expect no more and no less than £6 a week.

Fare increases of up to 17 per cent to take effect on March 28 were calculated without including the next pay round. They are expected to yield between £30m and £40m extra revenue each year. Apart from putting up fares, British Rail would have to reduce services severely to meet the new claim in full.

The National Union of Railwaymen is recalling its executive on Monday to consider the latest fare increases and the big reduction in investment disclosed in Thursday's White Paper on public expenditure. The three rail unions are also planning a joint meeting.

They may decide to intensify their campaign against further cuts. But with the industry in such deep trouble, there is little likelihood of industrial action.

Mr Tom Jenkins, assistant general secretary of the white-collar Transport Staffs Association (TSSA), said last night that the British Railways Board believed 1985 would be a disaster year for the industry.

White Paper, I think it will be 1981."

Officials of the NUR say that when electrification of the Kent's Cross to Royston line is completed by about the end of the year there will be nothing left of the £5m allocation for electrification. Track improvements would have to be slowed or stopped. That would mean that the new high-speed trains would be restricted to under 100 mph.

The three railway unions, representing 250,000 workers, negotiate their pay claims annually. The NUR board has little room to meet the full £6, which the TUC regards as an encroachment on its agreement with the Government.

That means that the £30m to £40m extra the board expects this March 28 fare increase to yield will be wiped out, leaving it with no choice but to ask for new fare increases. The unions, which have allocated £20,000 for their campaign against the rise, have given a warning that they will oppose any further increases.

Our Political Correspondent writes: The Government should consider dismissing the top management of British Rail "who have consistently shown a lack of imagination in making rail transport unattractive to passengers and freight traffic."

Mr Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex, South-East, suggested yesterday in a letter to Mr Gilbert, Minister of Transport.

"These latest fare increases will cause considerable difficulties for families in south-east Essex at a time when the Government is loudly claiming that it is bringing inflation under control," he wrote.

Spanish envoy

Barcelona, Feb 20—The Spanish Government today appointed Marquis Luis Guillermo Perinat, a career diplomat, as Spain's new Ambassador to Britain.—AP.

Republican fury over Stagg funeral grows

Fears of IRA retaliation grew in Dublin yesterday as heavily armed troops guarded the body of Frank Stagg, the dead hunger-striker, at the parish church near his birthplace at Hollywood, Co Mayo. An Irish army helicopter flew the coffin from Shannon airport as part of the government's attempts to frustrate republicans who had planned to use the Stagg funeral as a propaganda exercise.

Mr Callaghan declined yesterday in Parliament to identify him, but it was learnt from non-British sources that Sir Antony had lunch here with Mr Joseph Sisco, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, and the most senior policy assistant to Dr Kissinger.

It is understood that Sir Antony had not visited Rhodesia, but that the perceived threat to Rhodesia from increased guerrilla fighting in the aftermath of the Angola war was part of the general exchange on the deteriorating situation in Southern Africa. It is understood by informed sources that there is no joint plan of action by the British and American governments.

Effects of breach, page 4



Francis Russell Flint, the artist, taking one of his paintings of the Tattershall Castle to the former Humber ferry boat, which is being opened as an art gallery on the Thames on Tuesday.

Energy chairmen in clash over policy

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

A basic policy disagreement between Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, and Mr Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, became apparent yesterday.

The disagreement came into the open at a forum called by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, where government officials, trade union leaders and heads of the coal and electricity industries attempted to formulate a common approach to energy policy.

Both Sir Derek and Mr Hawkins presented papers.

Mr Hawkins complained that Sir Derek had failed to reply formally to a letter he had sent in December on the coal board's plans to increase prices and called for an end to its "cavalier attitude."

At yesterday's meeting Mr Hawkins, whose views apparently won some support from Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, protested at the 15 per cent price increase on power station coal, announced a week ago, which would add £150m a year to the generating board's bill.

Mr Hawkins noted that the coal board was able to increase its prices without being affected by Price Commission regulations or by the Government, which was unable to veto them because of the coal industry's membership of the European Coal and Steel Community.

Mr Hawkins said he did not want a protest, which like a cry in the wilderness, goes unheeded. "We do think that before such a substantial increase was imposed on the coal board might at least have invited its biggest customer to discuss at the highest level the serious implications of the increase, not only for electricity but for coal's prospects in the power station fuel market."

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Mr Hawkins said he had expected the increase and had written to Sir Derek but had not received a reply.

Sir Derek said later, however, that he regretted the increase. His failure to reply to Mr Hawkins was a "genuine misunderstanding."

But Mr Hawkins said that he was the trustee for the 20 million electricity consumers who would have to foot the bill in the long run. Some of the increase could be absorbed by increased thermal efficiency, but the bulk would fall on the consumer and it was his job to fight for the consumer.

He criticized the coal industry for its poor record in improving efficiency compared with the electricity industry.

Afterwards the two men addressed a press conference where the rift on fundamental policy appeared to widen. Mr Hawkins challenged Sir Derek's demands that some oil or gas-fired power stations should be switched to coal.

But the two men managed to resolve some of their differences and close ranks against the jokers being made by the gas industry with its more competitive prices. Mr Benn and the Government have been left to do doubt about the concern over what Mr Hawkins described as "the swing to gas getting so out of hand."

The basic policy differences between the coal and electricity generating industries do not offer a prospect of early resolution.

At the heart of the disagreement is the coal board's commitment to its long-term plan agreed with the Government and supported by the unions, while the generating board is insisting on a more flexible approach and a more realistic attitude to high-cost energy and reduced demand for electricity.

Those differences will be discussed at future meetings of a small working party set up by Mr Benn's suggestion. It will be on Mr Benn's suggestion.

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Appeal Court criticism answered by judge

By Diana Geddes

In an extraordinary interview yesterday, Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, three of whose decisions were challenged in the Court of Appeal on Thursday, said it could not be accidental that the three cases, which he had originally tried at differing times, should all come up for appeal at the same time.

"I do not know how it happened, but this seems more than coincidence," he said. It is rare for a High Court judge to reply publicly to criticisms relating to his decisions or conduct in court. The outspoken Mr Justice Melford Stevenson has not chosen to do so before.

He told reporters in his private rooms at the Central Criminal Court: "I know that crime generally is increasing and I think the do-gooders are achieving a high degree of influence in many quarters."

He did not think that the purpose of some of the "do-gooders" was to undermine law and order. "But of course if you get an alliance between those who desire, from sincere motives, to do good and the criminal classes, unpleasant consequences can follow."

In one of the appeals heard on Thursday, the Court of Appeal ordered a new trial after being told that Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, aged 73, had called counsel into his private

room during the luncheon adjournment on the first day of the trial and told them that if the defendant persisted in pleading not guilty, he would get "a very severe sentence indeed."

The judge told them that the defendant had no defence at all, and that if he changed his plea it would make a considerable difference. Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, presiding in the Court of Appeal, said: "The defence counsel had been 'embarrassed' and had decided he had no alternative but to tell Mr George Cain, the defendant, with the result that he had decided to plead guilty."

Mr Cain, of Armes Street, Norwich, was convicted of assaulting two small boys and of causing actual bodily harm, and was jailed for four years at Norwich Crown Court last October. He appealed on the ground that the pressure on him was such as to prevent him from exercising a free choice, making his plea of guilty a ploy.

Lord Widgery said on Thursday: "We think that once it becomes clear that an accused knew what the judge had advised, it is idle to say that he had a free choice in the matter."

Everybody knew that a plea of guilty generally attracted a lighter sentence than one of not

Continued on page 2, col 1

Two-by-election dates

By Our Political Staff

The Conservative Party yesterday moved the writs for by-elections in Wirral and Sutton, Carshalton. Polling will be on March 11.

The by-elections have been caused by the retirement of Mr Selwyn Lloyd as Speaker of the House of Commons, and the elevation to the Lords of Mr Robert Carr, former Home Secretary, in Mr Heath's Administration who held the

Sutton, Carshalton, seat for the Conservatives.

Results at the general election in October, 1974, were: Sutton: Carshalton: Mr Robert Carr (C), 22,538; Mr B. F. Atherton (Lab), 18,840; Mrs H. M. G. Smallbone (L), 8,272. C majority, 3,698.

Wirral: Mr Selwyn Lloyd, the Speaker, 35,705; Mr P. R. Thomas (Lab), 22,217; Mr M. D. Garford (L), 12,345. C majority, 13,488.

US briefed by special envoy

By David Spaorier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, has sent a message to Mr Ian Smith, inquiring if he now means the British Government to become involved. This disclosure was made after Mr Callaghan's statement in Salisbury that Britain had made him a new offer.

That would seem to rate the British message rather too highly, judging from Mr Callaghan's statement about it. What has happened is that Mr Callaghan received a letter from Mr Smith, indicating that he would like to see the British Government become directly involved in the negotiations.

Mr Callaghan sent a message to him a few days ago, that he would take no action without the support of the four Presidents—the leaders of Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana and Mozambique—who have been in close touch since the start of this phase of Rhodesian talks, when Mr Callaghan went to Africa.

Looking ahead to a constitutional conference is extremely premature in the British view. The first point to establish is what Mr Smith now thinks about the situation. The recent visit to Southern Africa by a senior British official, it may be noted, had nothing to do with this initiative.

The implication, however, if the Government is to become involved, is that Britain would take a direct part in the talks between Mr Smith and Mr Nkomo, to try to rescue them from failure, or would convene talks among a wider group. But involvement certainly excludes any military intervention.

Fred Emery writes from Washington: The high-level British emissary to Southern Africa who last week came to Washington for high level consultations was Sir Antony Duff, Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office for Near Eastern and African Affairs.

Mr Callaghan declined yesterday in Parliament to identify him, but it was learnt from non-British sources that Sir Antony had lunch here with Mr Joseph Sisco, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, and the most senior policy assistant to Dr Kissinger.

It is understood that Sir Antony had not visited Rhodesia, but that the perceived threat to Rhodesia from increased guerrilla fighting in the aftermath of the Angola war was part of the general exchange on the deteriorating situation in Southern Africa. It is understood by informed sources that there is no joint plan of action by the British and American governments.

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Effects of breach, page 4

Letters to the editor from Russia in protest

Our Foreign Staff

The Soviet Union and the Soviet Liberation Organisation have attacked the Jewish press on Soviet Jewry with as much coordination as must have taken to set up a meeting which ended in insults on Thursday night.

Not only has the Soviet Government issued its own critical views on the conference at shoals of letters protesting about the congress and written to the offices of West European newspapers in the past month.

The Times and The Sunday Times have received a total of nearly 100 letters, many posted in Moscow on the same day, in which Jews refer to the "evils of Zionism". Newspapers in Paris are reported to have had similar letters.

Wires of British trawler cut by Icelandic patrol

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The first incident at sea after Iceland broke off diplomatic relations with Britain occurred in a matter of hours. The trawler wires of the British trawler Ross Lewis of Hull, were cut by the Icelandic patrol boat Thor during Thursday night.

The routine protest made to the Icelandic Government after such attacks is expected to be conveyed by the French Embassy in Reykjavik, which is now looking after British interests in Iceland.

Icelandic and British officials were meeting in Reykjavik yesterday to discuss the implications of the break in diplomatic relations. Five British-based staff were at the embassy yesterday, but Mr Kenneth East, the Ambassador, who has served in Britain as press attaché for some years, is now styled consul.

Mr Augustsson said yesterday that Britain had been "cheating." "The number of British trawlers fishing off Iceland is now greater in these past two months than in the same period last year," he said. "They have been fishing in a conservation area denied under the old interim agreement. This is hypocrisy."

Mr Einar Augustsson, the Icelandic Foreign Minister, said in Reykjavik yesterday that he did not think air traffic would be cut off between the two countries, but he expected Icelandic ships would be barred from British ports. He did not expect that Icelandic students in British universities would return home, he added.

On board the patrol boat Tyr, off Iceland, Feb 20—A British warship narrowly missed the stern of this Icelandic patrol craft today and the captain accused the frigate of trying to ram him.

The frigate Yarmouth and the Tyr had been steaming on parallel courses in heavy seas within Iceland's disputed fishing grounds when the incident took place.

Republican fury over Stagg funeral grows

Chairman Mao's guests: Former President Nixon and his wife leaving Los Angeles for Peking. The Chinese sent an airliner for them.

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GLC car tax aim

The GLC may seek legislation permitting it to tax large office car parks in central London, with the aim of reducing the number of spaces from 51,000 to about 20,000, and peak period traffic by between 15 and 22 per cent.

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Page 3

Tory leader predicts election next year

Mr Thatcher predicted a general election in or before October, 1977, before the full effects of the Government's cuts in public expenditure were felt. In an aggressive speech at Exeter, she said that public expenditure was taking a higher proportion of national income than at the end of the war.

Left's power move

Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian Communist Party leader, told Parliament that the country could no longer be governed without Communist participation. He urged notice on the ruling Christian Democrats either to cooperate in a leftist government or leave the running of the country to the left.

Mr Ford's inept campaign

The ineptitude of President Ford's election campaign in New Hampshire is already a subject of marvel, Patrick Brogan writes. It is his last effort to beat Mr Ronald Reagan in the Republican primary.

Page 6

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Lord's battle

The battle over the closed-shop proposals in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill will reopen in the Lords on Tuesday.

Influenza

A survey by general practitioners indicated that the number of people with influenza doubled last week.

Page 3

Graduating from university has given you your own life assurance society

On the premise that those with a higher education tend to live longer than others, the University Life Assurance Society was set up in 1825 by graduates of Oxford and Cambridge.

It is incorporated by Royal Charter and offers especially favourable terms to those educated at universities, public schools, and similar educational institutions in the U.K.

An even more important advantage is that the plans offered by the Society are especially tailored to the needs of its members, e.g. Top Hat Retirement Plans for directors; personal pensions for self-employed professional men; Young Graduate Policies offering initially reduced payments.

Recognising today's increasing costs of private school and university education, the Society offers School Fees Plans and Education Policies. Both can be of great help in effectively reducing the costs of private education.

The Society's plans cover a wide range of insurance and savings needs, from house purchase to retiring on an annuity, and all benefit from the low expenses of the Society.

For further details, contact any branch. Or send this coupon.

I'd welcome knowing more about the Society, and in particular the following plan(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> Top Hat Retirement Plans for directors.	<input type="checkbox"/> House Purchase Policies.
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Pensions for the self-employed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Income Protection Policies.
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Graduate Policies.	<input type="checkbox"/> Annuities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Education Plans.	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Plans.

Name: David Rich

Address: [blank]

Tel: [blank]

The University Life Assurance Society
1 Coleman Street, London EC2A 5PU

LC may seek tax on office parking in centre of London

Conservation programme for Bath 'insufficient'

Our Correspondent

It will cost £15m just to restore the exterior of Bath and its associated listed buildings, according to a conservation programme prepared by Mr Roy Askett, the city's architect and planning officer, and Mr Hugh Gunton, director of the city's conservation committee.

Mr Askett's study states that the city will need a programme of conservation well beyond the 15 years agreed with the Department of the Environment.

His report is the first of a three-phase study of priorities, pointing out that the spending of £230,000 a year for five years is insufficient to satisfy all the council's conservation needs, the report says that in the long term conservation grants will have to be sought from the private sector. It also calls for an extended programme to meet the volume of work.

There are 4,658 listed buildings in the conservation area, with only 18 recently restored. A total of 1,877 are in good condition requiring routine maintenance only, but 2,090 need some repairs, although apparently they are without serious structural defects or extensive decay. Of the remainder, 438 require big repairs and 39 are derelict.

Our Transport
respondeed
London bus and Tube fares
go up by an average of a
rter in July, three months
British Rail's fares rise
between 10 and 171 per
t. London Transport con-
ced yesterday.
he Sp bus fare will go up
9p, the Sp car to 10p; the
16p, the 16p in 20p and
20p to 26p. Underground
fares will remain at their
present Sp intervals, starting at
a minimum fare of 10p, but
each ticket will buy a shorter
journey. The effect will be an
average increase of 23 per cent
on ordinary fares and 29 per
cent on season tickets.
Children's fares will change
from half the adult charge to
fares of Sp, 10p, or 15p, depend-
ing on distance. More attractive
offpeak
offered, and elderly or handi-

Our Correspondent
behaves
Trevor McDiarmid Arting,
a teacher who will not
recognize the authority of a
prison and has been in prison
the past six months as a
result is to be forced to take
freedom.
Artingstoll is in Havering
Road, Milton, Cumbria, for
empt of court, but yester-
day at Whitehaven County
Court, after an applica-
tion on behalf of the Official
Prisoners' department, the ju-
dicial officer made an order that he
be released from prison in 14
days.

Mr Rodney Klevan, for the
Official Solicitors' department,
applied for his release without
consent because it was con-
sidered that six months in jail
was long enough to purge his
conscience.

Mr Artingstoll, aged about
50, was sent to prison by Mr.
A. O. Pappworth, a deputy
judge, for an indeterminate
period on August 22 last year
at Whitehaven County Court
for failing to obey an injunc-
tion to vacate the matrimonial
home: failing to do so he was
not in molest his wife, and
children and for insulting the
court.

private inquiry into
riuns concerning the
nent of mental patients at
General Hospital,
er Manchester, found no
ice of cruelty or violence,
ort stated yesterday. Over-
d nurses on an under-
ward were "bad-
wed, frustrated and
erated."
Our-man tribunal sat for
days last week investigat-
ing treatment of Mrs Sarah
n, aged 45, who last year
a mixed mental unit for
derly.
The report recommends
examination of staffing
services in the 151-bed
iatric department, part of
hed hospital.

complaint against The "Sun" arising out of alleged untruth in an article about revisionism in the Israeli has not been upheld by Press Council.

P. M. Miller, of Regent London, complained that the editor was at fault the article misrepresented an advertisement in the press, no communication was to the newspaper's unit two months later, when readers were so led through a letter in error, there was no relevant explanatory comment he facts advanced in the or was there an apology.

Guardian published on 28, 1974, an article titled "Examining policy," headed "Clenched fists cast a long shadow" in which reference was made to the carving by the Hebrew press of an unlicensed advertisement. That was the image clenched fist striking roads, and under it the words "there is a solution" Gabriel Padon, press officer at the Israeli Embassy in London, complained to the editor that Mr Hirst had transmitted false information, and assumed the editor would wish to correct it. He wrote another letter to the editor and that was published on March 12, 1975. In it, Mr Padon said that Mr Hirst used deliberate lies in his article. The advertisement referred to was clearly marked as being sponsored by the Manufacturers' Association. An editorial footnote said that Mr Padon expressed the official Israeli view.

The next day Mr Miller wrote to the editor saying he was concerned that he should be able to rely on the objectivity of the newspaper's correspondent, and asked why Mr Padon's strictures should not be accepted. Eleven days later he wrote again to the editor saying he had "a right to have his questions answered. Mr Andrew Hutton, letters page editor, replied, referring him to the editorial footnote to Mr Padon's published letter.

In submitting his complaint to the Press Council, Mr Miller denied that Mr Padon's letter

A boy aged 12 at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday, told how his father for a sausage on one Saturday morning led to his mother, Mrs. Rossale Morrison, a member of the Scottish Bar, of Scotsman Park, South Queensferry, appearing before the court.

She pleaded not guilty to wilfully neglecting, abandoning and exposing her son, Alan, in a manner likely to cause him unnecessary suffering or injury to health by leaving him unattended in the house connected with the charge.

Young Persons Act, 1937.

The crying boy had put on a fire on the stove was said to have overheated and the fire brigade was called. A neighbour extinguished the blaze.

James Stewart, 10 Melville College, Edinburgh, said: "I was not exactly hungry. I felt like a sausage."

Shirley Middleton found Mrs. Morrison not guilty. He said "I think it's completely nonsensical case."

Pedice Constable Alan Shields said that when he charged Mrs. Morrison with neglecting her son, she said "I am not amazed." A few days later, on the instructions of his sergeant, he went to the house to tell her that there was not enough evidence and the charge would be dropped.

Later proceedings were started.

By our Education Correspondent

Foreign students in Britain should share some of the country's economic difficulties, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Opposition spokesman for education, told the Cambridge Conservative Association in Cambridge yesterday.

But their share of the burden should not be discriminatory. To increase fees by five times as had been suggested would destroy good will overseas. He argued that the £120m annual cost of maintaining overseas students was cancelled out by

The number of people with influenza doubled last week according to the latest provisional figures from the Royal College of General Practitioners. The number affected in the week to last Tuesday was 537 per 100,000, compared with 285 the week before.

The illness also appears to be spreading rapidly with Scotland affected to a greater extent than before.

The worst affected area is still central Southern England, with 1,683 cases per 100,000, compared with 1,433 a week before. It is worse off than the week before, has suffered a smaller increase. The number there rose by less than half to 720.

West Midlands suffered a threefold increase to 813 per 100,000, but Scotland had 237 per 100,000 affected.

The college research unit said: "There are signs that it is moving north and seemingly missing the Manchester area. It does not seem to be increasing there but is streaming up the centre of the country."

It appears that East Anglia, which provided the college with its first reports of the outbreak, may be over the worst. Reports there fell from 80, per 100,000 last week to 69.

On a rough calculation, the first wave about 230,000 had influenza last week, but the sampling method of using reports from 40 general practices can miss local high and low incidence areas and does not take account of those who catch it but do not go to their doctor.

Walsall North constituency Labour Party will not allow to drop Mr J Stonehouse summarily as candidates for general election. They desire a unanimous decision to reject his resignation this day.

Local party officials have been told that the constituency party's executive must hold meeting at which Mr Stonehouse must be invited. If they must reject a resignation they must do so for meeting of the management committee to arrange a special meeting to discuss the issue, and Stonehouse is entitled to appear at vote.

If the special meeting decided against Mr Stonehouse, party's national executive committee has to be informed. Mr Stonehouse has indicated that which Mr Stonehouse could state his views.

British Petroleum is giving £100,000 to the Royal National Life-boat Institution towards the cost of a 54ft Arun class lifeboat to be stationed at Aberdeen. The boat will bear the name Forties.

The Domestic Violence Bill which would have given him legal protection to harras his wives, failed again to get a second reading in the Commons. David Davies, Conservative for Thanet, West, objected. But the indications are that the Government may take action through that the Bill will go through.

Its sponsor, Miss Jose Richardson, Lahour MP for Barking, will meet Sir John Grieve, MP for Havering, on Monday. Mr Short has said he will deal with the Bill 'pauitichely and has promotted that he will consider whether it is worth the time and trouble that he can bring it forward.

Miss Richardson hopes he will use the device, of bringing the Bill forward on a foot of a 'normal' day of a normal business.

The Archbishop-elect of Westminster, Abbot Basil Hume, formally take charge of the diocese on March 12 and will be ordained bishop and installed as archbishop in Westminster Cathedral on March 25.

From Our Correspondent
Southend

His husband, alleged to be receiving £12,000 during 25 years in which he was unemployed, was jailed for a month by magistrates at Southend, Essex yesterday.

Albert Thorogood, aged 46, Manners Way, Westcliff-on-Sea, was arrested for failing to answer two summonses brought by the Department of Health and Social Security. He had, earlier, pleaded guilty to persistent neglecting to maintain himself and his wife, Kathleen, aged 53. He was sentenced to one month in prison for failing to answer to run concurrently.

Mr Basil Corcos, for the prosecution, on behalf of the department, explained why the case had gone on so long. He said that for the last 25 years, most of the time, Thorogood was covered, the first time between August, 1974, and last year, there was no reason why the bench should not know that Mr Thorogood had not worked for more than 20 years.

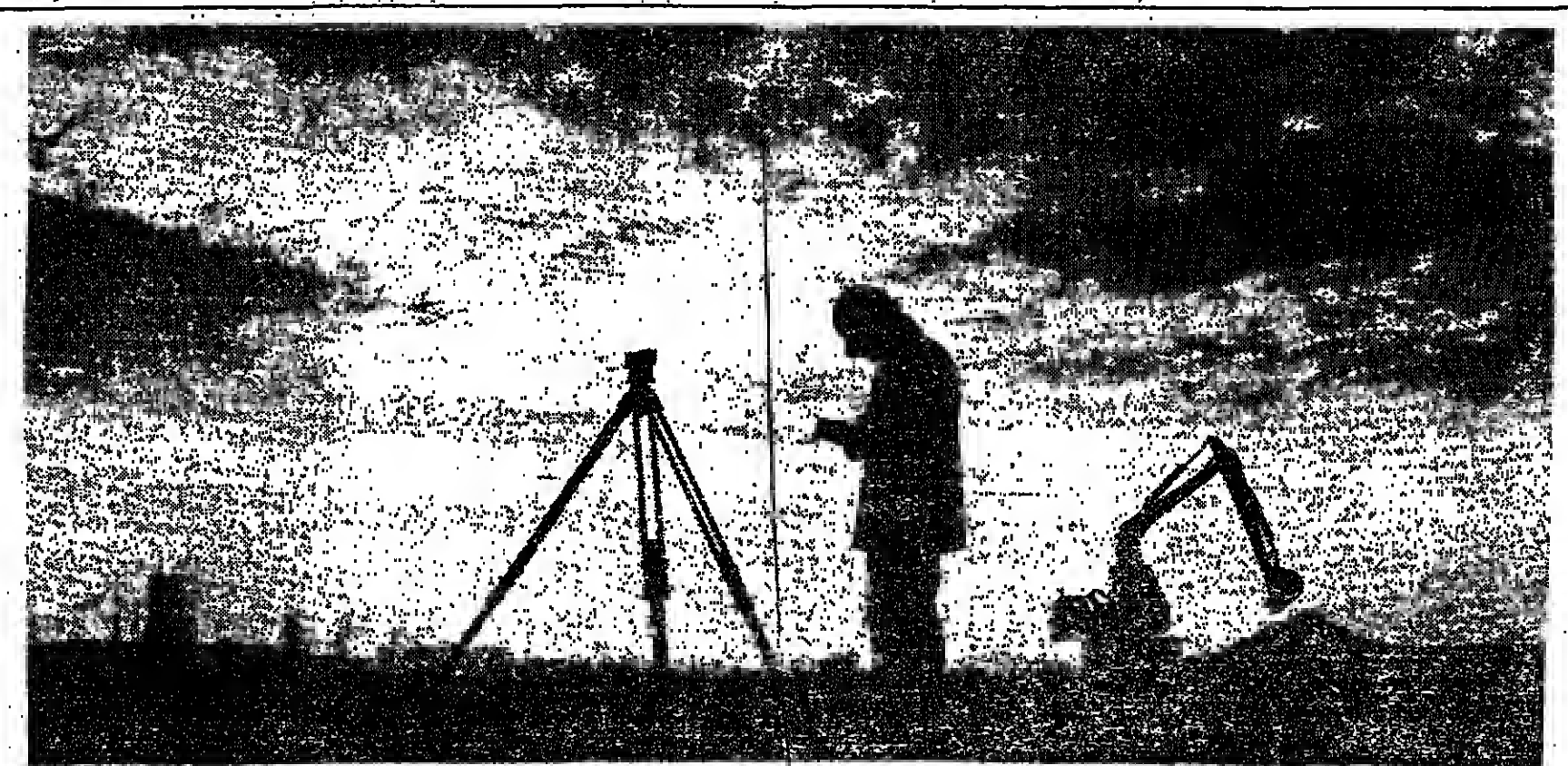
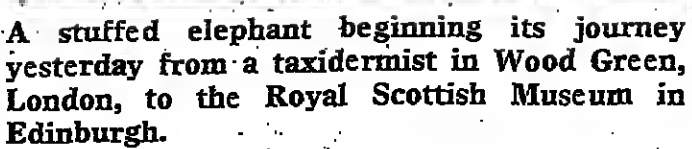
The department had continually "warned and chased" up the defendant during that time. In the period covered by the summonses he had been seen by the department on three occasions, the first prospective employer and he had made little effort to obtain the other job.

References during the hearing to 70 attempts to obtain jobs for him, and to a letter which Thorogood had claimed was a record of job hunting, Mr Corcos said.

Mr Roger Fittness, for the defence, described him as probably one of the few unemployed men in Britain.

The sentence should be one to help him out of his difficulties rather than to punish him. Mr Thorogood had been a registered disabled person, suffering from rheumatoid arthritis.

When the sentence was announced Mrs Thorogood said in court: "This is not justice. Afterwards, as she ran from the courthouse to the police cells, she was found at her home. "You are to blame. When he comes out of prison he will never work."



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Minus	
Tax	£108m
Dividends	£ 59m
Business partners c.	£ 28m
PROFIT RETAINED IN THE BUSINESS	£132m
Plus	
Depreciation—for replacing old plant and machinery	£181m
Funds from other sources—mainly loans	£135m
TOTAL INVESTED	£448m

ICI puts profits back to work

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OVERSEAS

Moscow defends its attitude to dissidents in counter-attack on human rights critics in West

Moscow, Feb. 20.—The Soviet Union today delivered its strongest counter-attack so far on critics of its record on human rights, defending the prosecution of dissidents and the accusation of slandering the Soviet system.

A 4,000-word article in *Pravda* signed by I. Alexandrov—believed to be a pen-name used for especially important policy statements—appeared to be directed at the Western communists as well as domestic readers.

It was the latest move in a campaign which has gathered strength to advance the Soviet party's twenty-fifth congress next week. It is aimed at rebutting all Western criticism especially charges that Moscow is violating last year's Helsinki declaration.

Although the campaign has been underway in the Soviet Union for many weeks, it reached new heights in a meeting in Warsaw in January of party secretaries in charge of ideological problems from the communist countries.

The main theme of the *Pravda* article, entitled "On Real and Imaginary Freedoms," was that "the system of democracy as it exists in bourgeois-democratic systems."

In a discussion of dissidents, the article said: "There are individuals in the Soviet Union who express opinions contradicting communist ideology, and there are also anti-Sovietists, enemies of socialism. Some of them and some of their actions are not for their views but for actions contradicting the law."

The article explained that Soviet law punished actions aimed at the subversion or weakening of the existing order and the spreading of "deliberately false fabrications" besmirching the Soviet system.

"Our law proceeds from the principle that just as slander besmirching the Soviet Union is punishable, so slander towards the whole of society—social defamation—is punishable," it said.

The article also contained a stinging rebuke clearly directed against the French, British, Italian and other Western communist parties which have questioned "administrative" Soviet handling of dissidents.

It expressed surprise that "the bait has been swallowed by some of those who support socialism but think that they will be able to build a society of equality and justice with the help of the 'critical' promptings of the class enemy."

Pravda denied that dissidents were incarcerated in psychiatric hospitals simply for their beliefs, a charge highlighted recently by the release of Mr. Leonid Plyushch, the mathematician, from such a hospital and a press conference he later gave on arrival in Paris.

Soviet medicine guarantees that only people with psychiatric disorders are given treatment. But it cannot guarantee that so-called dissidents will not be among them.

The article said that as Soviet power had established itself, penalties for anti-Soviet slander had been made lighter. But it added: "At the current stage of development, especially in view of the international situation, the people of a socialist country cannot do without the necessary defensive measures against those who by their actions try to undermine the order guaranteeing the rights and freedoms won by the people."

"The Soviet people, whose will is reflected in the laws of the state, categorically grant freedom of action to those who damage socialist society and national security. . . . However, regrettable this is to the enemies of socialism, we really do not have such 'freedoms' and they must reckon with this."

The newspaper condemned Western claims "about the Soviet authorities preventing marriage between Soviet citizens and foreigners, about obstacles being put up against citizens of Jewish nationality to join their families in Israel, and about the absence of freedom of conscience in the USSR."

It added: "The true nature of persons called dissidents in the West is seen from the fact that once they are abroad, they take jobs at anti-Soviet centres controlled by imperialist secret services. . . . These emigrants who work for Radio Liberty and a West German publishing house."

It said Jewish emigration was down because Jews were not applying to leave. "The Soviet Union is not the only and beloved enemy, and they reject the idea of leaving it with indignation." Only 1.6 per cent of exit applications have been refused, mostly on grounds that the applicants possessed state secrets.—Reuter and UPI.

Rhodesia seen as main danger to S Africa

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Feb. 20

Today's announcement by Mr. Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, that he is prepared to include the British Government in the constitutional talks with the African National Council, has helped to dispel some of the gloom which South Africa had been viewing the situation there. However, there is still considerable pessimism that even direct British involvement can succeed in bringing about a settlement.

From a South African point of view, the situation is regarded as a greater danger than that on the Angolan border, where the prospect of a direct confrontation between the South African and MPLA-Cuban armies appears to have receded. Unless a settlement is reached quickly, an escalation of the guerrilla violence along Rhodesia's vulnerable border with Mozambique seems likely, possibly involving Cuban advisers and even troops.

What South Africa fears is that it could be dragged into such a conflict against its will. This would almost certainly destroy what chances remain for the republic to mend its fences with the black states to the north and would also bring it into direct confrontation with Mozambique.

At present, the South African position appears to be key to much of the diplomatic moves that may be taking place in Salisbury and Pretoria as possible. But if the latest British initiative fails and the fighting in Rhodesia becomes more serious, with whites getting killed in substantial numbers, South Africa would be put in a quandary.

It would have to weigh the possible diplomatic advantages

A puzzled America sees Nixon tour start

From Fred Emery Washington, Feb. 20

Mr. Richard Nixon, who, as President Ford reminded questioners last night, resigned in disgrace, today came out in a new role as a guest of the Chinese Government in Peking.

The former president, accompanied by Mrs. Nixon and his residual retinue of Secret Service bodyguards, boarded in silence a specially chartered 707 jetliner which the Chinese Government had sent to collect them, at a remote cargo section of Los Angeles international airport.

The original intention had been to pick them up at a small air base near the Nixon home, but public criticism evidently prevented it.

Mr. Nixon is returning to Peking on the fourth anniversary of his trail-blazing journey there as President, making the score three trips by American jet to the Chinese capital.

No one in Washington claims to know why the Chinese have invited him. It is known that those who despise Nixon in China are given the red carpet treatment even when out of power. Some have assumed that the Chinese are thinking of promoting him as a symbol of the high days of their anti-Soviet policy.

But the Chinese have made a serious miscalculation if they think they can help rehabilitate a man whose name is being used by the Chinese to discredit the American administration.

The criticism against Mr. Nixon for accepting the invitation, coinciding with the first presidential election primaries, has been unusually severe.

Today, senior Chinese diplomats went to Los Angeles to see the Nixons off.

Mr. Nixon will presumably bring back a nodding acquaintance with Mr. Hua Guofeng, the acting Prime Minister. Mr. George Bush, now director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and for a time America's head of mission in Peking, had to admit yesterday he had never met Mr. Hua.

Leading article, page 15

Peking policy 'unaffected by power struggle'

From David Bonavia Peking, Feb. 20

Mr. Hua Guofeng, China's new acting Prime Minister, has said that the country's foreign policy will not be affected by its internal political struggle.

Mr. Hua, whose appointment came as a surprise when it was announced two weeks ago, was speaking last night in Hsiao Alfred Dregger, a leading member of the West German Christian Democratic Union.

Mr. Hua said China continued to support West European integration and opposed Soviet policy in Europe. Commenting further on the Soviet Union's policies, Mr. Hua said they were not the work of nine men alone, and the removal of one man would not necessarily change them.

He referred with apparent bitterness to the fact that Vladivostok and Makhovsk, in the Soviet Far East territories, once belonged to China. His remarks evidently were intended to quell speculation that his appointment might signal the start of a new Sino-Soviet thaw.

Meanwhile, some military attaches in Peking have been told by Chinese officials that Mr. Hua's appointment, the deputy Prime Minister, who apparently was passed over by Mr. Hua's appointment, retains his post

Zambian copper seized in Angolan port

From Our Correspondent Lusaka, Feb. 20

The Russian and Cuban-backed Angolan Government of Dr. Agostinho Neto has seized a ship carrying Zambian copper at the port of Lobito, President Kaunda said in a press conference in Lusaka today.

Seizure of the ship was seen by political observers in Lusaka as the first step of strained relations between Zambia and the Popular Movement (MPLA) Government of Angola.

The seizure of Zambian cargo also casts doubts on the possibility of a special Chinese mission reopening the vital Benguela railway to Zambia traffic after Zambia's rejection of diplomatic recognition of the MPLA Government.

President Kaunda told the packed press conference that only a political solution to the crisis in war-torn Angola would bring peace, and insisted that his Government would not go on its knees asking the Angolan



Israeli police stand over two Arab youths they had beaten unconscious during the protest.

Police fire breaks up Jerusalem protest

Jerusalem, Feb. 20.—Police fired into the air to disperse a crowd of young Arabs from the Temple Mount area in the Old City when they staged a noisy demonstration after Friday prayers in Al Aqsa and Omar mosques.

The police said that about 400 people were involved, some of them threatening to attack a police post. About 30 teenagers, including some from towns in the occupied West Bank, were detained, the police added.

Today's disturbance was one of a series of protests in the area since a magistrate's court two weeks ago dismissed charges against young Jews who had held a prayer meeting on Temple Mount. A number of the first United States judges for their part in earlier protests.

The area, which houses two of Islam's most sacred mosques, is also revered by Jews as the site of their destroyed temple.

Sadat tour aimed at cut in foreign debts

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Feb. 20

President Sadat sets out tomorrow on a tour of Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait for important political and economic talks.

On the economic side, Mr. Sadat is expected to discuss the possibility of further assistance, particularly from Saudi Arabia, to help Egypt's ailing economy. The official Gulf states have already provided Egypt with economic aid, either by cash, by financing industrial projects or credit facilities.

But such help has little or no impact on improving the situation of a country plagued by huge foreign debts of more than £2,500m, excluding military debts owed to the Soviet Union estimated at about £3,000m.

President Sadat said in a press interview recently that Egypt wanted some £2,000m in cash to rejuvenate its economy. Revenues from the Suez Canal, which it was hoped would reach £500m annually, were the best guarantee to repay loans, he added.

Saudi Arabia was Egypt's major financier during the 1970s, but Saudi assistance is said to have reached nearly £500m.

President Sadat's visit to the five states takes place at a time when there is growing feeling among Egyptians that other Arab countries, especially the wealthy ones, should help Egypt, which bore the brunt of four wars with Israel. Egyptian military losses since the 1967 war are estimated at £16,000m.

Mr. Sadat will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation including the Foreign Minister, Mr. Amr Fahmy, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Helmi Abdul Rahman, Planning Minister, and Mr. Ahmed Osman, Minister of Reconstruction. Mr. Amr Osman are expected to outline Egypt's economic needs.

Politically, Mr. Sadat's talks in the five countries will take place at a time when Arab solidarity has been shattered by rivalries. Division is evident in the recent Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement, the Syrian-Palestinian alliance and Syria's attempts to reconcile King Hussein of Jordan with Palestinians.

Egypt is suspicious of these moves, which are seen as designed to isolate Cairo and minimize its role in the conflict with Israel.

Egyptian political commentators also suspect a move to bring the country under their control.

Egypt has denounced King Hussein's recall of the dissolved Jordanian Parliament, including members of the Israel-occupied West Bank as detrimental to the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Cairo has also said that the king's move was a violation of the Rabat Arab summit of November, 1973, which unanimously recognized the PLO as the only representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan has said the move was taken with the knowledge of the PLO and Syria. The Algerian-Moroccan conflict over the Western Sahara will also be discussed during Mr. Sadat's talks.

Arab newspaper closed for Israeli censorship breach

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Feb. 20

A Defence Ministry source said today that *A Shaab*, an Arab newspaper, was shut down for publishing material that had been classified as confidential by the Israeli military intelligence.

The newspaper, which has been appearing in Jerusalem since 1972, was suspended for eight days. Brigadier Walker Bar-On, the military censor, said it was the first time since the capture of the West Bank in the 1967 war that an Arab newspaper had been penalized for a breach of Israeli security laws.

An authoritative Israeli source said *A Shaab* had complied with the regulations for three years. Indeed the newspaper and another Arab daily, *Al Fajr*, appeared from time to time with white spaces on the editorial pages.

But a few months ago, *A Shaab* began neglecting to submit its copy to the censor. It was repeatedly warned but not heeded, the source said, the editors became increasingly defiant and in recent weeks published material that had been classified as confidential by the Israeli military intelligence.

The issue that caused the suspension concerned an explosion near Nablus in which two Arabs were killed. The Israelis said the victims were terrorists who had planned sabotage in Jerusalem. The news censorship law forbids the publication of such reports from the *A Shaab* report the names of one of the victims while police began an inquiry to establish what they had been up to and who their accomplices were.

A *Shim'on* ran the item as a story on February 18 but the day after it published the names of both victims without having submitted the item to the censor. The Israelis said this served to warn accomplices to cover their tracks.

Ethiopia priests bail removal of archbishop

Addis Ababa, Feb. 20.—Ethiopian priests and laymen have welcomed the military removal of Archbishop Tewoflos from his post as head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, reports by the official news agency said today.

Abuna (Archbishop) Tewoflos was deposed on Wednesday. The Government accused him of "misleading and manipulative management" of the Church and of responsibility for killings.

The Government also said that priests and monks at one Addis Ababa church are ready to provide documents detailing the Archbishop's alleged misconduct.

Guards freed after siege at Canadian prison

New Westminster, Canada, Feb. 20.—Three prisoners released last night after a 14-hour siege at a jail in British Columbia.

The three guards were seized yesterday morning by Andrew Bruce and Dwight Lucas, both serving life terms for their roles in the 1971 murder of a 14-year-old girl at a jail in British Columbia.

The end of the siege came when Mr. Dragan Cermet, the prison director, met the prisoners' demands to be transferred to the Dorchester Federal Prison to New Brunswick.

Seized passports protest

By a Staff Reporter

The National Council for Civil Liberties is to question the Foreign Office on the decision to confiscate the passports of those who are returning from Angola.

Miss Patricia Hewitt, the council's general secretary, said yesterday that she intended to raise a number of points with the Foreign Office and to get MPs to question Mr. Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, in the Commons.

She said: "We have always taken the position that passports should not be issued to anyone who is going to a country where there is a risk of their being taken away. If they are taken away, they should be legislated and the right of appeal should be given to the person who is being taken away. If Parliament wants to take action against mercenaries, it should be done by means of legislation."

Inept campaign hits Ford chances as polls show conflicting trend

From Patrick Brogan Manchester, New Hampshire, Feb. 20

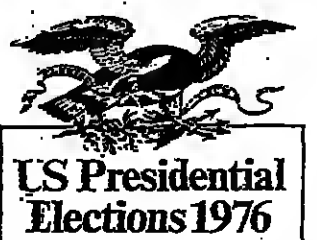
President Ford is in New Hampshire in a last effort to beat Mr. Ronald Reagan in the Republican primary, and the opinion polls are conflicting, some showing that Mr. Ford has been making gains at Mr. Reagan's expense, others that the former President is well ahead of the former football player and congressman from Michigan.

The President says that he is confident of victory and that, even if he loses, there are another 30 primaries ahead which he "will win, thus ensuring the nomination for himself. No one else is so sure. If the result is close, Mr. Ford will fight on, hoping with the weight of his office to overwhelm Mr. Reagan, whose intellectual inadequacies are becoming increasingly evident."

If he loses badly, of course, Mr. Ford might as well pack his bags for Grand Rapids. Vice President Rockefeller and, perhaps, Mr. Elliot Richardson, the Secretary for Commerce, are already getting themselves ready to rush into the breach.

Mr. Ford was at Keene, in the mountainous west of the state, last night and had a couple of thousand cheerful, polite, but not wildly enthusiastic people gathered to hear him in the gymnasium of the local high school. They cheered him for 60 seconds when he arrived, and cheered his wife for 30 seconds when she took her bow.

As is the custom in American politics, the candidate's advance men distributed hand-drawn posters for people to wave, to create an illusion for television



was an entirely private affair. Some New England commentators believe that Mr. Ford cannot himself escape from the Nixon stigma, which cost the Republicans a New Hampshire Senate seat last year.

Mr. Ford started various Reagan suggestions and was politely applauded. Many or perhaps even most of the people there had come to see and hear the President, not to demonstrate their support for the candidate.

One questioner asked the President's opinion on a move to write the name of Mr. Richardson on the ballot as vice-presidential candidate. There is an old tradition here of writing in names and this time there is a campaign to write in Senator Hubert Humphrey's name for the Democrats, and that of Mr. John Connally, former governor of Texas, for the Republicans.

The question about Mr. Richardson drew warm applause, and so did Mr. Ford's answer that indeed he would make an excellent vice-president.

Meanwhile the local newspaper, the only important one in the state, keeps up a relentless drum beat of support for Mr. Reagan and denigration of the President. It is an excellent example of the power of the press.

Mr. William Loeb, who once shot the office cat and refers to Mr. Rockefeller as a "wife swapper" although he has had more wives himself than the Vice-President, delights in the power his newspapers give him.

Mr. Meldrim Thomson, the state governor, thinks that Mr. Reagan will win easily but that Mr. Loeb is more cautious and says that "it's a horse race." That seems a fair judgment.

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I duly sent off my telegram to the editor, Geoffrey Dawson, adding to the many others which he received that day on the shattering effects of this article. Everywhere I went in Prague during the next few days I was pounced upon by officials, diplomats, and journalists. I could shake very few of them out of their treasured opinion that *The Times* was the direct voice of the British Government.

One often hears it said now that the September 7 article started the downward rush to Munich. My own reading is that the movement had already

begin; the article gave it the maximum publicity and ensured that it gathered momentum like a shout of "Fire" when people are already shouting it. The article was so exciting that it was bound to excite. It may indeed have encouraged the Nazi leaders not to resume the talks in Prague at that precise time, but their main objective was to break the peace movement. Whichever view is held, men on *The Times* still shrank for years afterwards at the thought of September 7, which provides the supreme example of a newspaper doing a wrong article at the wrong time.

After September 7 the menaces increased in intensity. In Prague we watched with growing agony and bewilderment the Cambridge Jew, so called by Hitler at Berchtesgaden on September 15, the British and French Governments then put ruthless pressure on President Benesh to yield up the Sudeten areas. September 21 brought the first reports in Prague that President Benesh had decided that the Sudeten had to go in any given way, and agreed to let the Sudeten regions go to Germany. Resistance had turned to surrender.

It was then, on September 21, that the people of Prague decided for the first time to take a direct hand in events. Very quickly they organized to march to the Václavské (Náměstí), the Wenceslas Square, which is not a square but a broad, upward sloping boulevard, a smaller Champs Elysées. At first they stood in threes and fours, holding the papers in their hands. Some young men were mainly young men and girls, shabbily dressed. Soon men and women came in hundreds, then thousands, filling the square. They

begin by seeming wholly bewildered. Many were weeping. "What fools we were to spend such money on frontier defences," I heard one man say, "when this was Britain!" "We don't need any more guarantees," said another, "we want aeroplanes." "A well dressed woman stopped, gazed at me and said, 'You are English, aren't you?' "I replied in a cheerful voice, "I pray that Heaven may punish France for her treachery and Britain for her blindness."

As evening came on the great crowd seemed to find its centre. "No concessions. Let's be rid of the defetists. We won't give up Prague. The army should take over. General Syrovky for Prime Minister. Down with the Government."

Still without anyone giving orders the crowds began moving. They went to the bottom end of the square, shouting and singing the national anthem. Police said that there were two hundred thousand on the streets, some in the loose processions, some waiting on the pavement. The marchers went on through the Old Square, past the National Museum, and then to John Hus and over the beautiful Charles Bridge with its double line of statues on each side. They climbed up the twisting streets on the other bank of the river Vltava. A police cordon good humouredly turned them away from the National Museum, leading them to the British Legation. Some shopkeepers speedily put up their shutters.

The crowds now knew where they were going; to the heart of the nation's traditions, the Hradcany Palace on the top of the hill, once the baroque residence of the Bohemian kings, now the President's home and

office. As I walked with them, and watched them moving along without disorder, entirely resolute, there came into my mind the description of the Edinburgh crowd during the Porteous troubles in 1737, proceeding on their way with "a temper rather stubborn than impetuous, sedate about their business."

In front of the palace the people called again for General Syrovoy, the highly popular Inspector General of the Forces, to take over and for all constitutional considerations to oppose the hovering change. It took on the deeper meaning that caught one's breath, "Tell us the truth. We want the truth." It was a sovereign demand: the people in assembly were consciously taking over the word, "Great is the truth and it shall prevail."

It was now well past midnight. Lights in the palace showed that President Benesh and his ministers were still seeking a way out of the catastrophe that threatened the country. The night was long and the day ahead.

Benesh said that Benesh himself had appeared. At all events word was quickly passed from man to man that Benesh had promised that Syrovoy would lead the Government. There were a few cheers but no jubilation, rather a sense that the struggle for the country was only beginning.

A few days later the people showed their will more forcibly. I was in the hall of my hotel at the lower end of the Vozvayskoye Namesty on the evening of Friday, September 25. At 10.20 pm, there came an urgent hailing from the loudspeakers outside. All classes of men under 46 to report immedi-

ately to their military depots. People gave a long shout of relief and approval. In 10 minutes the whole of the boulevard, which had been a narrow, staid street with moving cars, became dark as a mass of men, walking shoulder to shoulder the whole width of the thoroughfare, pressed on to the station. In place of the usual orderly march of the mass was the heavy swish and slur of hundreds of shoes. Some women walked with the men, the older ones tearful, the younger ones laughing. As they went to the arms of their fathers and husbands, "Well, it had to come." "We won't let those German brutes through." Tramcars were soon commandeered by volunteer wardens; some of the drivers and conductors had been in the army. The Women jumped out of private cars to let men ride in them to their depots. Waiters said brief goodbyes in hotels and restaurants. Lorries trundled past, taking more men through the walking crowds. I had never imagined that a general mobilization could happen with so little fuss.

A little later—when war seemed certain, telephone lines were cut, and almost all frontiers were closed—I went in the last train to leave Prague for Poland. I wanted to send off my despatch on the mobilization here and there and it came, go on to London to join up. The train was full of Czech soldiers either in uniform or mud, going up to their frontier stations. Munich was still a few hours off. All faced the coming fight without any bravado but with a quiet, steady belief that they could hold on until France, Britain, and

Czech reconstruction hut please report factually as well as sentimentally." I thought of baying it framed.

They were however beginning to come too fast by then, and in the next days *The Times* printed several long dispatches from me on the paralyzing losses of mines, heavy industry, textile plants, light industry, and raw materials which Bohemia and Moravia faced. Britain offered Prague \$10m credits. It meant precious little when the Czechoslovak Government had spent \$30m at French expense on the frontier defences alone, and when it faced the ruinous cost of re-routing roads and railways which had been cut as Germany, Poland and Hungary advanced their frontiers. To the east Prague was facing an upsurge of nationalist separatism. Not surprisingly some ministers and several highbros staunch newspaper editors declared openly that what remained of Czechoslovakia—a ruined, defenceless rump—had better try to come to terms with Germany without further ado.

Churchill's devastatingly accurate insight in the *House of Commons* on October 5 was quoted in Prague at the time, and it stands today:

"Silent, mournful, abandoned, broken, Czechoslovakia recedes into the darkness. We have sustained a total and unmitigated defeat. . . . The whole equilibrium of Europe has been deranged."

This extract is from *A Man of The Times* by Iverach McDonald which will be published by Hamish Hamilton on March 25 at £5.50.

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Montage by Trevor Sullivan

Russia would be inevitably, as they thought, drawn in. Brigadier Stronge, the British Military Attaché, interpreted the mood of the men in the same way: "I have no doubt whatsoever," he has written, "that . . . when general mobilization took place, the army as a whole, officers and other ranks alike, were not only prepared to fight but inclined to want to fight and settle the matter once and for all."

The third demonstration by the people in Prague came a few days later. It is something that any westerner would wish he had not seen. Munich had happened. Threatened with immediate war by Germany, and told by Britain and France that Czechoslovakia would be left to founder alone unless she submitted, Dr Benesh and his Ministers surrendered. Long sleepless days and nights of hewing and hacking saw friends and allies he had brought them (people close to them told me) to a state when they were long past coherent thought. So Czechoslovakia was to be broken up.

The people came again on to the streets, again in their thousands, but this time weeping with grief, rage, shame and exhaustion. One morning I saw a large number of men and women in the Old Square around the statue of John Hus, burnt for his faith in 1415: they had been drawn there by a common impulse yet they could say nothing, only sit there, their eyes screaming, and their faces working.

Up near the frontier regions once again, I saw Czech units—so calm, so confident a few days before—coming back in retreat, unable to speak in their misery. They were being told that they could hardly face his men. He had just had to order them to give up the forts they had been trained to defend. At one place I came back to my car and found the Czech driver surrounded by a menacing group of Sudeten Germans in some kind of uniform. Quite calmly he was waiting for me, and we drove off through the forest. I saw that the Czech soldiers filled the roads all the way back to Prague. Some of the men knew that they had neither home nor job ahead of them. They had lost nearly a million of their Czechs living in regions now handed over by Munich to Germany.

Western correspondents could only describe the disaster as best they could. At that time it was frequently said, and has since been repeated, that Geoffrey Dawson, who wrote out anything from foreign dispatches which did not fit in with the paper's editorial commitment to appeasement. My first assumption was that neither before nor after Munich any of my dispatches cut in any way, and they certainly did not bolster the paper's policy. Only once did I get a remonstrance from Printing House Square, while that was a mere radiance with the total incomprehension. "A time sympathetically interested in Czech reconstruction but please report factually as well as sympathetically," I thought of having it framed.

"Facts" were however beginning to come in fast by then, and in the next days *The Times* printed several long dispatches from the mines, the paralyzing forest fires, the ruined textile plants, light industries and towns which Bohemia and Moravia faced. Britain offered Prague £10m. credits. The Czechs, who had made the Czechoslovak Republic had spent £80m. at the frontier defences alone, and when it faced the ruinous cost of re-routing roads and railways to the new borders, as Germany, Poland and Hungary advanced their frontiers. To the east Prague was facing an upsurge of Slovak separatism. Not surprisingly some ministers and several hitherto staunch newspaper editors declared openly what remained of Czechoslovakism, and defences crumbled—had better try to come to terms with Germany without further aid.

Churchill's devastatingly accurate judgment in the House of Commons on October 5 was quoted in Prague at the time, and it stands today:

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Apples from the tree

soloists sing with real understanding of Purcellian style and are rewarded by the superb portamento in instruments and replicas of them. The result is anything but authenticity for its own sake (as happens in some like-minded Contemporary efforts) but a lively and attractive attempt at re-creation of the music itself, that at least has the nobility and tenderness that marks Purcell's songs of praise to his sovereign. My copy sounds, in permanently, as though it was pressed on sandpaper.

Authentic, too, presumably is the sound of Eastern European vocal ensembles on the RCA *Matthew Passion*, both fresh and pointed as is their singing, and that of Schreier as the Evangelist, they cannot

Striking us afresh



Felicity Palmer

Photograph by Clive Barda

leatherg conducting of the very
eran Mausersberger, oor
the first time in the artist's
is frankly of third division
status. These faults put the
right out of the reckoning. Far
better to save another pound or
two and invest in one of the
new recordings of the least
sturdy, Jaroslavl one of HMV
or Münchinger's vivid Decca
recording.

Back raided other works for
his two little Masses, but the
adaptation would hardly be
unavailable if one did not know
about it. Gross and dedicated
sensitivity mark these two
assuming works, heard most
affectingly in the two tenor
solos, one in each work, with
ovo obbligato (the persua-
sive ravens, Barrington), both
amazingly sung, and with a
grudge. Bickox conducts with
naturalness and insight, but I
wish he would not tolerate
such ugly counter-tenor sounds
in his choir. The recording
made in South Square, is
spacious and warm.

The King's Singers gave
Alan Rådström's charming The
History of the Flood its pre-
miere at the same venue. I

Making classic tracks

mances here, particularly of sixteenth-century chansons—Josquin's "Petite camésente"—a special delight—and the familiar close-harmony arrangements are as communicative and enjoyable as ever.

Alan Elyth



Joan Sutherland in "Lucia di Lammermoor"


Photograph by courtesy Royal Opera House

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Antiques

Thieves have the key to supply and demand

"We think they are now stealing to order," said Detective Inspector Mason of the Art and Antiques Squad. "The demand for antiques has become so great that burglary is necessary to solve the trade's supply problem." I was visiting Scotland Yard to garner advice for collectors—and the inspector certainly was telling me. He suggests that this type of burglary is teamwork—and that there are several separate teams operating. Someone who knows what type of antiques are in demand gives an order for so many clocks or ivories and the team tries to find the right houses to break into to fill the order. He is not suggesting that the actual team-mates who break into the house are knowledgeable connoisseurs but that they receive clear specifications from above.

This is bad news for collectors for he implies that once any collecting field has become popular burglaries will be arranged to meet the market's supply—and known collectors are obviously prime targets. The most amazing recent example of stealing—to order—comes from one of London's top auctioneers who were sent photographs of paintings from an Italian church for an opinion although they had not yet been stolen.

The inspector's views sound right to me judging from the many burglary stories I have heard. I have noticed how all your acquaintances are getting burgled? Even with the worms' eye view of an ordinary member of the public it is pretty obvious that one is going to be burgled oneself either sooner or later. My mother was done over Christmas; it was a clear example of one of Inspector Mason's teams. They took all the clocks in the house of an age—including a grandfather clock which has been quite testing to dismantle and remove. One or two other things were gone, but quite at random—they must have been added as an afterthought.

The question that this raised in my mind was what can or is being done about it? Well, the Art, Antiques and Philatelic Squad was formed at Scotland Yard in 1968, a special team to deal with crimes concerning art, antiques and stamps. There are only eight men at present but they had 1,078 crimes concerning art referred to them last year; the first six weeks of 1976 have thrown up another 140. They have contact men in most of the major provincial squares, and the Devon and Cornwall constabulary have been so plagued with burglaries of this kind that they have organized a special six-day course for police officers with lectures from art and antiques experts as well as representatives of the trade.

The most crucial problem for the squad at present lies in the recognition of stolen objects. The art and antiques boom of the last 15 years has seen to it that many items of a "type" regularly on the market are extremely valuable, for instance: Georgian silver coffee pots, long case clocks or Chinese jades. It is virtually impossible to recognize a specific example from a verbal description. What the detectives need are photo-

graphs; armed with these they can visit the various street markets and traders where they make a positive identification of stolen goods. Without them they are helpless. Indeed they are faced annually with the disposal of substantial hauls of stolen goods which no one has come forward to claim; they have to be auctioned off.

This is where the general public can really do something to help by photographing all the potentially valuable items in their possession. Inspector Mason's strong advice is to do this yourself; get a simple, cheap camera and go round room by room taking the best snaps you can manage. If you employ a professional firm there is always the danger that someone will go "hant" and your photographs will find their way into the hands of the burglars.

The police suggest that you should keep one set of these photographs yourself hidden somewhere about the house and another should be lodged with your solicitor or bank. This is to ensure that the police can get hold of them quickly if you are away from home when the burglars strike. If you can be bothered you should add some simple descriptive notes: measurements, description of colours, inscriptions, makers' names, obvious scratches, chips or damage. In the case of silver it is well worth while to photograph the marks because the way they are struck is probably characteristic and unique.

At present this type of information is rarely available when a burglary occurs and this is a major problem. You would be amazed how difficult it is to describe accurately an object that you've lived with for years. The police now use the series of Price Guide books published by the Antique Collectors' Club of Woodbridge, Suffolk. This facilitates the exchange of information round the country; the theft of a Worcester jug similar to illustration 29 is a step towards identification, though far from perfect. Unfortunately the Price Guide to clocks has not yet been published and this is a particularly popular area with burglars.

Before collectors (and "inventors" of art and antiques have pulled up their socks about photographing their treasured possessions there is little hope that the police will get on top of the burglary boom. Without photographs it is virtually certain that you will lose your items. If you have a collection of antiques, with them you are at least in with a chance. They can be advertised in the "Too Hot to Handle" column of *Art and Antiques Weekly* or even on television's *Police Five* if they come into police possession after a raid, they will be recognized.

Paintings have attracted special attention from the Art and Antiques Squad. They have been the most valuable items stolen recently. Their specifications—size, artist, composition etc.—and information on between 7,000 and 8,000 paintings stolen all over the world is already stored on the Yard's computer. Photographs of paintings are still an enormous help, but the compu-



Two paintings stolen in January from Merton College, Oxford. Prince William of Orange (left) by an unknown eighteenth century artist and Prince Maurice of Orange by an unknown seventeenth century artist. Each is valued at around £2,000.

ter programme has led to the identification of 40 stolen paintings since September—so it is at least working. The squad is looking into the question of coding in other fields, particularly porcelain and antique firearms.

This question of identification is so crucial because a lot of art works and antiques find their way quickly back into the legitimate art market. The Yard feeds information on stolen goods to Sotheby's, Christie's, Phillips and other auctioneers but the specifications are generally so imprecise that the auction experts would never be able to identify the goods. Occasionally a stolen item is sold from a German museum to a dealer in Camden Passage, London, who put it into Sotheby's, where it was sold to a German dealer, who put it in his window, where it was seen by the museum curator.

Everyone is interested in helping. The British Antique Dealers' Association have been looking into the matter for some years in conjunction with their international parent association SINOA. The art market is now so international that they feel there is no use in tackling the dissemination of information on stolen goods except on an international scale. But again there is little they can do when photographs are not available. Approaches have been made to the insurance industry to see if a reduction in premiums cannot be negotiated on properly photographed collections; the idea

has apparently not proved feasible because of the danger that a corrupt clerk in the insurance office might pass on the photographs to the underworld.

The question of stolen goods matters a lot to dealers. If they purchase them unwittingly it is more than possible that they will find themselves required to return the goods to their rightful owner while receiving no compensation for the purchase price. The Antique Dealers' Association has devised a most ingenious system to protect themselves in this matter. Books are much easier to describe verbally and the association has set up a telephone chain on the old principal of the chain letter to pass information down the line on books that have been stolen and may be offered to them for sale. Each dealer when notified has to ring up four others and pass on the information and so on round the country until everyone in the book trade knows.

From the point of view of the private collector or owner of nice objects the other crucial matter, regarding the burglary, is that of insurance. Before they accept your business insurance companies expect you to show "due diligence" in protecting your possessions. This may simply be a matter of having adequate locks on your doors and windows; but if your possessions are too valuable (over £70,000 if not less) they may expect you to have a full perimeter system with devices that trigger off an alarm on doors and windows

and a telephone link into the police 999 system. When the personal disadvantages of living in this type of electronic stronghold are added to the pressure of massive insurance premiums the pleasure of owning a fine art collection may well be destroyed.

A perimeter system is likely to cost at least £400; it is advisable to consult your insurance broker on the type to install, otherwise you may find that they do not accept your system and make you put in another one. Some collectors feel that they would rather take the risk of burglary than pay up and wire up—who is to blame them? It is perhaps worth noting that owners of works of art scheduled as of "national importance" receive no tax concessions on their insurance premiums; surely the Government if it minds about the "national heritage" could be more generous about this. From Mr. John Southern of the insurance brokers Duveen and Walker—who specialize in art and antiques—I have gleaned a few specific pieces of advice for collectors. In the first place, make sure that you are not under-insured. He

advises having an itemized schedule of your collection even if some or all the pieces are worth under £100 and would not necessarily have to be itemized under your insurance policy. It provides a useful discipline and helps you keep up to date on values.

On top of this it is wise to negotiate a float figure to cover future purchases and a limited amount of special cover outside the home to take care of situations such as collecting purchases from dealers or auction rooms or sending objects to the restorer. He suggests that collectors are often better served by a Lloyd's broker rather than the standard contents of the house insurance provided by the big companies. A Lloyd's broker can provide a personally tailored policy adapted to your collection; for instance, there is the charmingly named "duster clause" by which the owner of fragile objects obtains a reduced premium by guaranteeing that only he himself will dust the treasured objects. Other special clauses can be built into the policy to suit your personal requirements. He

Bevis Hillier

Bridge

Feeling your way

It is an anomaly that One Club is not the best opening on a hand where the limited strength is concentrated in the club suit. If you can afford to open, the most satisfactory bid may prove to be One No Trump. This was discovered in the days of Auction but had been forgotten until recent developments in system bidding.

Even when the club suit has a serious flaw which weakens the point count value put upon the hand, the opponents do not necessarily find the killing defence. I have taken a deal from a high-powered duplicate tournament in America, although the principle applies equally to rubber bridge. An unfortunate opening lead combined with an ill-chosen discard on the clubs gave declarer game in No trumps where a conservative player preferred a contract in Clubs and went down.

No score; dealer North.

♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ 10 8
♣ 10

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ K 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ K 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K 7 6 5 4 3 2

West led the ♠ 3 to dummy's ♠ 10. Declarer, whose only resource was to pray for opponents to establish his ninth trick, led a heart to his ♠ K and cashed the ♠ A on which East discarded a heart. He next led a low club and East mistakenly threw the ♠ 2. West did not like to play away from his ♠ K, so he led the ♣ J to the ♣ Q and ♣ A; East returned a diamond and declarer therefore made game when he should not have taken more than eight tricks.

The curious feature of the deal is that the declarer would not have lost points even if he had gone down because his opponent played the same hand in three Clubs (losing two spades, two trumps and one diamond), without the slightest chance of making his contract.

Even the greatest players sometimes overlook that the principal purpose behind a minor suit opening is to pave the way for a contract in a major suit or in No trumps unless a perfect fit in the minor is uncovered. Four small trumps opposite four headed by the ace king do not provide

adequate support for a slam in the trump suit.

Two years ago the bidding of an Australian pair in the world championship was highly praised when they reached Six Diamonds, although they lost a slam which would probably have been made in No trumps. I say "probably" because their partners in the other room defeated Six No trumps by what was described as the finest defensive play of the tournament. The defence would not have been successful if the declarer had played his cards to better advantage; but the deal has several interesting features and at the least is the choice of the final contract.

East West game; dealer North.

♠ 10 8 4 3 2
♥ 10 8 7 4
♦ 10 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A 4 3

♠ A 7
♥ A J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 9 8 4 3
♣ 10

When East reached Six Diamonds and a positive response of One Heart he had no choice. At another table where transfer bids were employed in order that the strong hand should not appear on the table, West avoided the trap of playing in a suit by assessing the allowable value of his hand and rejecting a contract which hung upon a 3-2 trump break.

North East South West
♠ No 1 No trumps No
♥ No 3 No trumps No
♦ No 3 No trumps No
♣ No

The ♠ Q was led. East should have won the trick and returned a diamond in order to ascertain whether the suit broke favourably or whether he must rely upon a squeeze, but he allowed the ♠ Q to win. South was a quick thinker and switched to the ♠ 8. This forced the declarer to an immediate decision which he soon reversed; for he won with the ♠ A and thereafter could not avoid losing another trick. So the result cancelled each other but for the eagle-eye of the recorder. As my readers will have already seen there was no defence to Six No trumps in spite of the diamonds being twice held, although South succeeded in an elementary piece of bluff. Whether you win or duck the opening lead he can squeeze South in trumps and diamonds or force him to play away from his ♠ K, by the simple process of a Vienna coup. By keeping the long diamond in dummy, declarer forces South to unguard his ♠ K.

Edward Mayer

Gardening

These plants are made for walking on

Some very odd queries arrive in my mail and one the other day really floored me. It was a request for a list of plants that could withstand being walked on fairly frequently. I could only think offhand of the creeping forms of thyme and the Corsican mint, *Mentha requienii*, which is a good plant to grow in light shade, and the non-flowering chamomile *Anthemis 'Treneague'*, which covers large areas of the Buckingham Palace lawns.

My friend Will Ingham of Birch Farm Nursery, Gravetye, East Griestead, West Sussex, however, came to my rescue with the following list of plants which he says will endure quite a lot of traffic without suffering damage: any of the acacias and cecylas; all forms of thistle, *Armeria maritima*; the dwarf achilleas such as *A. argentea* and *A. lewisii*, also known as 'King Edward'; *A. tomentosa* and *A. rupestris*; such dwarf pinks as *Dianthus arvensis*, *D. deltoideus* and *D. 'Little Jack'*; *Gonista pilosa* 'Procumbens'; the prostrate broom; *Geranium sanguineum* 'Lancashire'; *Ranunculus australis*, *R. globosa* and *R. tenuicaulis*; *Sagina globosa* 'Aerea' and *Veronica filiformis*.

I should add a rider that *V. filiformis* is most invasive plant and it should be strictly confined to a chink between stones in a paved area or path. Never let it loose in a rock garden or in a border unless you want it to take over completely as ground cover.

These plants will not mind being trodden on three or four times a week, but of course they should not be planted in a paved path that is in regular and constant use. All of them are attractive, nearly all have attractive flowers as well as pleasing foliage.

Many people feel that a bit of lawn is obligatory even in the tiniest garden. Fair enough if you feel that way, but you may consider it not worth the trouble of cutting, feeding and watering. You may prefer, as many have done, to replace it with an area of formal or informal paving, with plenty of holes left for plants. If you really are a plant lover such an area allows you to grow many more plants in a small garden and still leave some sitting space.

I would suggest, however, that if you do decide to plant a "oaved garden" you do not confine yourself to the very low growing or carpeting plants. Here and there on the parts likely to be less trodden upon use one or two slightly taller plants, such as say the yellow broom *Gonista pilosa* or the grey leaved cotton lavender *Santolina incana*, now to be known as *S. chamaecyparissus*. The last named may be kept very neat and about 12-18in high if trimmed hard every year in late March. If you trim it in autumn or winter you may lose it. Which the dwarf lavenders, of which there are several, such as the blue Munstead Dwarf growing to about 12in high, are both decorative and aromatic.

While I am offering lists of plants I may as well include the list of quick maturing vegetable seeds that Suttons were kind

enough to make for me to send to friends in Outer Mongolia where the growing season is only about three months. I have many requests for this list because these quick maturing crops are not only suitable for climates with a short growing season, but also for sub-tropical areas which may have a short season of available moisture.

Furthermore, some of them are vegetables that you may find most useful to grow as cash crops—that is, before a main crop is planted, or after an early crop has been harvested. One reader from Lancashire said his climate was almost as difficult for gardening as that of Outer Mongolia. His garden is 850 feet up, has a rainfall of 44in a year, and a frost is recorded in every month except August. His ever present problem will be wind and he will be wise to provide whatever he can in the way of shelter for his crops.

However, here are Suttons' suggestions. Pea 'Felcham First'. This is round seeded which means it is very hardy, makes a height of 15in, first early in maturity.

Dwarf French beans 'Masterpiece'. Very quick maturing, is the flat podded English type.

Dwarf bean 'Sprite'. Maturing at the same time as 'Masterpiece', but is pencil podded and completely stringless.

Mung bean. This is grown indoors on wet tissues or flannel to provide young seedling shoots as used in Chinese restaurants. This is not for growing outdoors.

Beet 'Earlybunch'. A quick growing globe variety.

Cabbage 'Earliest'. Quick growing, pointed headed variety.

Cabbage 'May Express'. Quick growing, ball-head variety.

Chinese cabbage 'Sampan'. Excellent cooked or in salads. Very quick growing.

Carrot 'Parisian Rondo'. Small round roots about the size of a plum when fully matured.

Carrot 'Champion Scarlet Horn'. Size and shape of the middle finger.

Cauliflower 'Snowball'. Dwarf growing, quick maturing.

Chicory 'Sugar Loaf' (Pain de Sucre). Resembles a Cos lettuce, stands in a fresh condition over

a long period, excellent for salading.

Kohlrabi 'Earliest White'. Cucumber. Outdoor ridge variety 'Baton Vert'.

Cabbage lettuce 'Fortune'. Plain leaved butter-head type.

Cabbage lettuce 'Wundermere'. Curled leaved, crisp heart variety.

Cos lettuce 'Winter Density'. This is very dwarf and compact in growth, very crisp, hardy and only requires 6in between plants; whereas 'Fortune' requires 10in and 'Wundermere' 12in.

Marrow 'Green Bush' F. hybrid. This could be used for the dual purpose of producing courgettes or the young fruits can be left to mature and used as marrows.

Onion 'Cocktail'. This is almost certainly the only variety which would mature in a short season. When fully mature they are about the size of a thumb nail. Excellent for pickling, preserving in white vinegar, but first class cooked as a vegetable, particularly with a dish of young peas, young carrots French style.

Radish 'Red Forcing'. The earliest maturing variety, small round roots, scarlet skin.

Radish 'China Rose'. Distinct from English types of radish, matures in 10 weeks. The roots can be lifted and stored for use in out of season salads.

Spinach 'Greensmarket'.

Turnip 'White Milan'.

Many people are asking in view of the scarcity and price of seed potatoes if they could use some of their own home grown tubers as seed, or even those bought at the greengrocers. Normally we would not do this because of the risk that these tubers may be infected with virus disease and will therefore give a poor yield. It is reasonably safe to do so for one or two years if necessary. We had to do it during the war, but the snack will certainly deteriorate, and it is much better to obtain certified seed that is free from disease.

Also, as some ware or eating potatoes are treated with a growth inhibitor to prevent sprouting in the store it would be wise to set them up to see if they sprout before planting.

Roy Hay



Did he jump—or was he pushed?

Christmas 1973 was the beginning of the end for Ted Heath.

The three-day week was starting, the Conservative party was in chaos, essential services were threatened—and the 'regional commissioners' had been alerted to take over the running of the country.

Heath had two choices. Should he try and beat the miners whatever the cost, or should he call a snap General Election? He chose the latter and, by taking the wrong decision, committed political suicide.

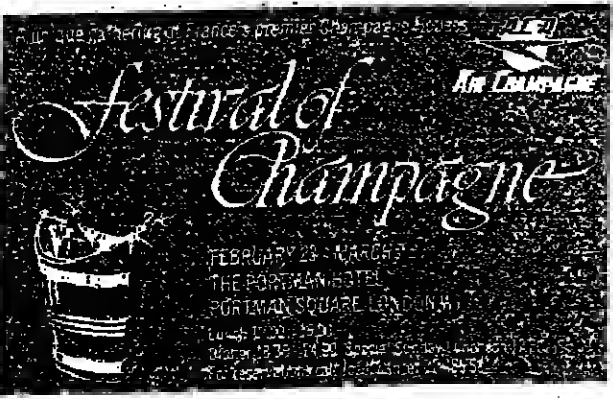
But why? Who advised him? Why did he listen?

Who did he meet in secret, and what was the effect?

Most of the leading characters involved in the Heath crisis have now talked to our reporters. Now the full history of the agonising decision has been written.

THE FALL OF HEATH
This week in

THE SUNDAY TIMES



comes home?

I'm more on home ground, says Osborne and Fingers. I'm working closer to my generation—I'm 23—and the sort of things that inspired me when I was a student. Osborne and Fingers were the best of them. I found it was more of a stir jump to do classics like "The Raven, St. George and the Dragon, and the Boy Who Cried Wolf."

Michael Feenk has just finished his West End run as a closer, in *No Man's Land*, an adaptation of now he returns with it to be National Theatre. In the new repertoire, says Osborne, Ray Adams is John Osborne's new play, *Watch It Come Down* in which he has a major role. It will be the last new production of the Old Vic and on March 6 it transfers to the Lyric and will be replaced by other productions, including *No Man's Land*, so the actor will all alternating between the two playwrights.

On stage Michael Feenk has been making his own strength; in person, slim pale, friend-as-thin gold ring curled around his finger, he still projects a sense of cool, collected vitality. Does the new play give him an opportunity to do as he pleases up his own particular directing creativity?

"Very much so. There's not been too much of background written into the play for the characters, so we ourselves have had a kind of decision there as to how we've come from and how we've met each other."

Does that mean that the play is not formally structured?

"I suppose, in a sense, yes. We have invented and researched ourselves—in that way it's very open! Osborne was very much a questioner, not only in the sense of being part of us all, the company. He was not the writer saying this character was that and that he

close relationship with anyone apart from the lady called Mrs. Bert's wife. Raymond tidies up their coats, cleans, washes up.

In the National Theatre, recent *Tempest*, a marvellous production with Bosch-like monsters and goddesses out of a trick musical, he played Ariel, who also impersonated Ceres. To what does he ascribe the curious quality of being a 'Shakespearean' magic sprite?

"I suppose you could say it's almost an animal instinct, based on training. I only on something I don't quite know it's true. I used to be scared about thinking any of these things, but now I know that, about good and evil, it's an instinctive thing. I'm rather only on it," which is good to a point, but there has to be more analysis than that. You couldn't expect a child to understand fellow animals to trust you if you just say, 'Leave it, it'll be all right. I'll do it by instinct,' so even though it's still with me, I had to learn how to channel it, and I can do that now."

Although the National has given Michael Feast some rich roles it didn't discover him. After the Central School he went to Leicester, and then the Manchester. 69 Company, then the Arts and Crafts Theatre, then Films & Brothels, *Sun, Sister Moon*, a venture, which dis-

"I prefer stage work because I find it very difficult to maintain an energy level in films. But the director of Private Road helped me a lot. I do rely on that energy in performance. I can often reach things I haven't been able to in a general. When there's an audience, I feel a greater release in performance. You are by yourself, and I can take over much more responsibility from that goes on."

For that, why he's less happy with films, because it always feels like... a rehearsal? "Yeah, that was my main problem in filming, to be able to get a sense of performance."

After the opening night of *The Tempest* he vanished for a few days, missing performances. Did this gain him a bad reputation and if so is he upset by it?

"I was having a hard time then—I'm still not able to be terribly coherent about what happened—there were a lot of things that were very enjoyable. After all, it was the first thing I did in London, Sir John the Old Vic—all that—but the first thing I just couldn't get on so well with was the two or three performances. But everybody was incredibly good about it—I'd managed to get in. When we danced the first time, I took a few very hard fringe theatre work which did me good, working and performing a lot. I feel very excited about that, and I think that's what happened to me again. I think I've managed a great deal."

Michael Leach

nps

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, several large, dark, curved objects, possibly beach chairs or umbrellas, are visible. In the background, a tall, thin structure, likely a lighthouse or tower, stands on the beach. The image is heavily stylized with a grainy, high-contrast aesthetic.

Relaxing on the 'front' at Port Grimaud (top), an ideal spot for an apartment holiday, and above, a view of the carefully designed coastline

Two weeks ago I wrote of cruising at ease along the Canal du Midi towards the French Mediterranean coast, and mentioned that the people I met along the way were without exception charming and helpful. Their courtesy helped make the journey a memorable one, and their attitude was very much in my mind when I recalled a more recent trip to France—this time to part of the Riviera.

What a contrast in attitudes one finds there! Hard to believe that this is the same country and these are of the same nationality, these brusque and avaricious "natives." If it is true that tourism taints, then a classic example of that tainting is to be found in the resorts down there. (I happen to believe that it is the tourists' money that does the tainting, as well as the lust for it, but even so the two fits.)

St. Tropez is the example that springs first to mind. On the harbour front there we strolled from shop to shop, threading our way through racks of denim and cheesecloth garments whose prices were outrageously expensive—to make up, presumably, for their poor quality. Though “*marist menus*” are available in the restaurants and displayed prominently—a diversion from them and into the more exotic regions “*à la carte*” takes a deal of financial courage.

All this I am prepared to accept as the price to be paid—literally for mingling with the self-styled smart set. If one travels to a place with a fashionable label, high prices are part of the scene, but one does not expect to be asked for a ride in a motor car, so in St. Peter, at least not in my experience. Surly inefficiency is all too often encountered. And contempt for the customers, as I learnt when I met the proprietor of a St. Peter night club. His exasperation was evident when he told me that he had paid around \$3.50 a head entrance fee and were buying drinks at the same price each. Or investing in a \$47 bottle of whiskey to see them through the evening. He was disgusted with the way the bank and the admiralty, laughing mainly at people who were foolish enough to pay his kind of prices.

I mention all this, not in any hope that the situation will ever change, but as a preliminary to explaining how a tremendous number of British holidaymakers — especially families — are finding themselves able to afford and enjoy holi-

days on the French Riviera. On the face of it those I met and interviewed were far from wealthy and most of them were frankly admitted that the Riviera's price tags were well beyond their reach. But they were enjoying their holidays, and the key to it all lay in the fact that they had chosen to look after themselves to a large extent. And they had chosen a "ranchy" mode to avoid the surly-snaffed tourist traps.

Do that and you will certainly get a lot out of a Riviera holiday. Like the people I met at the Colombar camp site near Frejus, about three miles from the sea. They had chosen a "ranchy" mode camping holiday, arriving at the site to find the large frame tents erected and fully equipped ready for them to move in. They had no need to bring in any piece of equipment, though old campers do. The admittance had packed some of their favourite gadgets to augment the equipment supplied.

Having brought car and family over the Channel, campers have the choice of driving themselves to the coast through France, or journeying to Frejus on the car-carrying train. The company organizing the holidays can make the necessary arrangements, including hotel reservations en route for those who choose to drive all the way.

The Colombian site is fairly typical of those you'll find in the region, having a restaurant, bar and swimming pool among its facilities. There is a small shop on the site, whose wares are sold at favourable prices to the local supermarkets and a takeaway meal service whose standards was remarkably high. The toilet blocks were spotlessly clean, the showers were hot and the self-service laundry was another facility.

"Not a holiday for people who don't like brushing their teeth in public," admitted a British tourist, who was with his wife and their three children. "But otherwise it's exactly right for any family," I'd say.

As well as Colombian, I saw the site at Buget, also near Papeete, and about four miles from the sea. Smaller and newer, it was packed with very lively young people, many of whom were managers who secured contact with the entertainment facilities on site (a bar with a juke box). Just below the hill town of Gassini, three miles inland on the less crowded side of the bay, the Cavalliere is a site which should appeal to anyone who wants to escape and escape the seaside hustle and, for a change, head for the lakes and hills behind.

But if you must be on a beach

then the site at Cavalaire itself, a little more than 300 yards from the sea, would probably be your choice.

Families I met in the region were very happy with the holiday they had chosen, and I gather that the secret of their happiness was to do a little, if possible, when the task is shared—to produce coffee at breakfast to go with the croissants at the little bakery shop, or put together a simple picnic lunch.

The evening meal is the gastronomic high spot of the day, and this is where the families are in the mode. They dine at the most expensive St Raphael and Sainte Maxime were favoured locations.

But a tent is a tent, no matter how large and expensive. The equipment is bulky. For those who prefer to dwell inside solid walls, the alternative is an apartment holiday. Some of the most desirable have even been found to be found also in this region. At the remarkable resort of Port Grimaud, located between St Tropez and St

About 10 years ago the marsh site was drained and, Port Grimaud "Waterbury City" was built there in an architectural style that faithfully copied the style of Provencal villages such as Grasse, Cannes, Cap d'Antibes or Ramatuelle. The idea behind it is to serve those who come with their own boats and rent or buy apartments and houses there. But a boat is not essential and Port Grimaud's apartments are used by "package" holidaymakers who have stayed here for themselves and it is rather like living in the middle of a film set, so perfect are its proportions, so artfully earnest its layout. There's a supermarket for apartment dwellers and prices there are higher than in the general stores outside Port Grimaud, so one is driven to motor to the nearest "real" town or village to shop. My impression of food prices was that they are more or less on a level with costs in Britain. It is only when one tries the more exotic offerings that prices go through the roof, but that brings me back to the tip of my nose. I am not a fan of tropes, and I do not want to dwell on them.

The company offering the "ready-made" campings arrangements is Canvas Holidays of Bull Plain, Hertford. Herts SG4 1DX. The apartments at Port Grimaud are available in 15/16 holiday brochures. Sitings are at 13/15 King Street, Luton. Beds LU1 1DW.

John Carter

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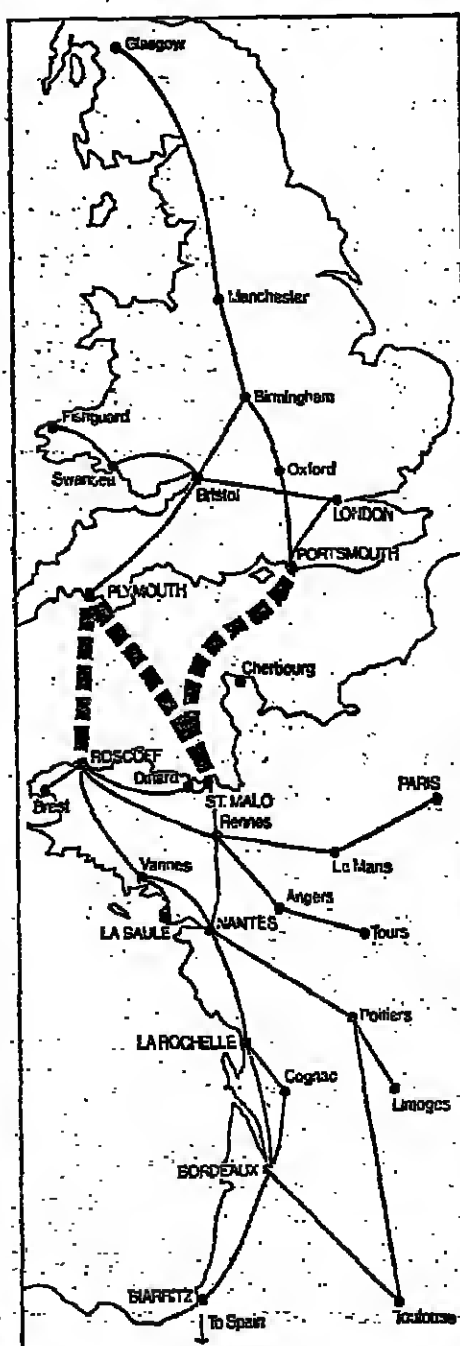
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A black and white photograph of a smiling man with a beard, wearing a patterned sweater and a scarf, standing outdoors. The man is looking directly at the camera with a warm expression. He has a full beard and is wearing a dark, patterned sweater over a light-colored shirt, and a dark scarf. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and foliage.

Michael Feast: compelling quality of nervous strength.

The Government is the dark horse in the race to save the newspaper industry

"At last, at last" was Fleet Street's reaction to the joint statement of the following long and numerous discussions between the managements of national newspaper companies and executives of all key unions—only Slade (Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers) has stayed apart.

The statement, a joint industry submission to the Royal Commission on the Press—was worth waiting for. A detailed document, it spells out the combined determination of all to eliminate the sickness that has bedevilled an ailing industry. But it does a great deal more than that. It emphasises the harmony which has been the prevailing atmosphere at these talks.

Duke Russey, chief executive of Times Newspapers and the man who largely steered the discussions on behalf of the publishers, says: "We have cleared the air, and we have cleared the air. The final phrase is significant. The joint statement must not be regarded as a victory for anything but common sense and an end of the affair. There are many laps to go and many hurdles to clear, not the least of them being the implementation of all that has so far been agreed. Unless both sides and unions hold their hands and this round will have been

just so much wasted time and energy. Unlike the Grand National, nobody is riding in this race. The object is merely to keep the race in being, this year, next year and every year; to keep alive as many of the runners as possible. The presence at all the talks of a man from the TUC was significant. It is clear that the TUC is as anxious for a viable industry, even if it does involve some sacrifice of cushioning practices for redundancy and other employees. It also means that the negotiating position, on both sides, is on a better defined and firmer base. It is significant, too, that the Mirror Group Newspapers, though still not members of the Newspaper Publishers Association, which was party to the joint statement, joined in the discussions. The royal commission was kept in touch with regular reports and has now to regular its own recommendations to Parliament round the end of this month or sooner. With luck, we shall hear something of the Government's attitude in early or mid-March.

The move towards eventually ridding the industry of a surplus of casual labour is likely to be welcomed by all, except the casuals themselves. Equally, we should not have been as surprised as we were, in the proposal that those who opt for voluntary redundancy

should leave the industry, not only their current employers. Journalists are naturally agreed to be exceptions to this and there may be others but, it is hoped, not many. Keeping manning at realistic levels, without automatic replacement to make nonsense of such a task as in the past, does at least allow managements to modernize without fear of losing present production or of undermining future return on investment. The non-displacement of savings effected by greater efficiency is another of those proposals which, sanity indicates, would sit naturally in any such agreement—but unofficial stoppages have too long been weapons of this industry, where savings can be dissipated so rapidly. It will need considerable union discipline to ensure that this weapon is scrapped. The joy is that union leaders intend to see that discipline exerted this time.

The next stage is the tricky one. Speed is imperative if employers are to carry on their house negotiations and plans for new technology and cost savings. Yet speed could wreck the prevailing harmony. For those who, like the Mirror Group and the Financial Times, have already committed themselves to modernization, the national title have been problematic, putting into limbo localised discussions and causing a major hiccup in investment projects. Even now, while there is some

freedom to manoeuvre, no management can go too far without knowing what emerges from the next round and whether demarcation will be tackled as intelligently as other issues to date. The TUC's record on demarcation is good and that must help.

That demarcation must be blurred is evident, since computerized equipment replaces the need for many manual operations and even skills. In this area, union leaders recognize—some admit to the need for a future without demarcation or for one federated production union (a dream? perhaps not). If one recalls that there were no fewer than 17 different print unions in 1945).

Optimists would see a three-year return on their expensive investment once modern technology gets going and there is some ground for optimism in the present climate, despite current stoppages. The clouds are still there, however, in the cost of new materials, and manning is not the only cost. Newspaper prices have doubled in a little over three years and become, on a typical newspaper, something like 31 per cent instead of 27 per cent of costs. With most of the staff imported and sterling anything but strong, rises must still be the way. Other overheads—the obvious rent, rates, energy, travelling and telephone expenses being only a few—effect

newspaper production rather more than many an industry which can be less profligate of space and services.

There are other hazards ahead and I find myself less bullish about these than those who compiled the profile on the one hand, the one on the other, Phillips and Drew. So far, resistance to price increases has been weak, especially in the case of serious newspapers which have also lost rather less in advertising revenue than they had feared. But there are too many cuts on the pocket for such resistance to remain weak and circulations must continue to fall as readers decide to do with fewer newspapers and magazines—sales of the latter are still falling.

The drop in magazine sales is relevant to newspapers which depend so much on the retail cash margin on a higher price offset some lost custom, small retailers are, nevertheless, finding themselves under pressure and many newspapers fear that their positions by seeking other outlets. As a result, retailers defend themselves by diversifying into other markets and some newspapers are considering the matter of counter display space. Perhaps the NPA's next task, after sorting out current talks, might be to explore some kind of inter-trade consultation? Current projects to control

shop hours could hit newspapers (open early, late and on Sundays) and dent newspaper sales unless newspapers are deemed to be a public service and exempt from such controls.

However, advertising revenue is likely to improve during 1976-77. If historical cycles of saving and spending by manufacturers and retailers are any guide, if profits take three years to erupt as managements would like, at least there is some promise of adequate cash flow for the majority—the names of the vulnerable have been too often quoted for it to be kind to repeat them yet again.

The dark horse, if we keep the Grand National theme, is the Government and its willingness or otherwise to help newspapers. There is, obviously, no love between the industry and Government. Further, it could be hard for any government to stomach the thought that the greatest help to newspapers and the like might be required by those very concerns which have been both inefficient and ungenerous in the past, while those who run their businesses better will be penalized to some degree. Since the biggest beneficiaries could well be Tory organs, an objective government decision is likely to draw some wary howls but these will presumably have to be borne bravely.

Sheila Black

The urgent need to save the cultural legacy of Moenjodaro

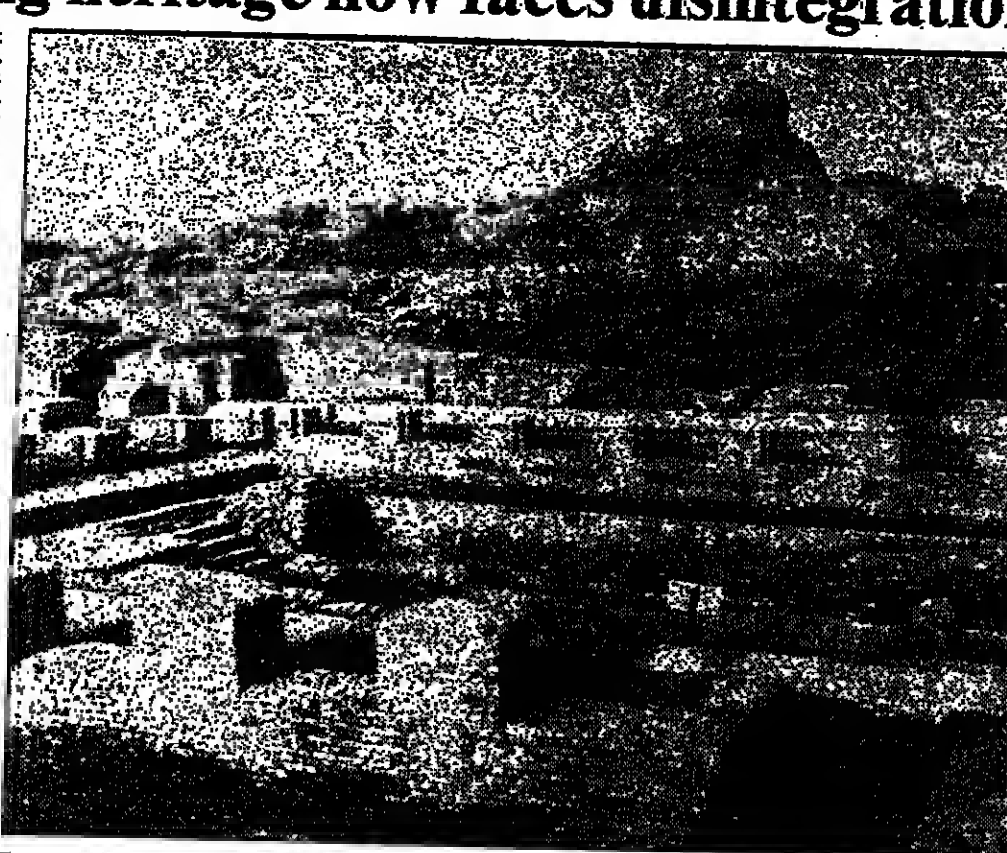
A crumbling heritage now faces disintegration

What has come to be recognized by archaeologists as the world over as "the most striking monuments of the dawn of civilization" are the ruins of Moenjodaro in Pakistan, a site perilously close to complete disintegration. The ruins of Indus Valley civilization which flourished between 2500 and 3300 BC are crumbling beyond repair and recognition in the next 25 years if the massive international support urgently needed to preserve the cultural heritage of mankind and for which UNESCO made an appeal in 1975, is not forthcoming soon enough.

The Mound of Dead at Moenjodaro is described sometimes as Marshall in 1921-22. The ruins extend over 700 hectares on the right bank of the river Indus in the province of Sind, 240 miles north of Karachi and easily accessible by road, train and air. Since the first discovery of the remains of Moenjodaro, large scale excavations conducted over the area have revealed an amazing story of the life and customs of the people who inhabited this city some 5000 years ago. The variety of relics unearthed there and the monuments give credence to the assertion that the people who built up the area, Indus Valley civilization, possessed unequalled and unique creative intelligence, initiative and perseverance.

It is not established what caused the obliteration of this great civilization which lay across the ancient migration routes from central and western Asia to the Indian subcontinent. But the evidence shows that floods and rising water had plagued Moenjodaro even then as they do today.

The excavations at Moenjodaro show that the city falls into two distinct parts; the lower and the upper. The lower city comprises the extensive remains of what were once the residential quarters. The upper part is an oblong mound towards the western outskirts and contains a great hall, a college of priests, a pillared hall and the Budd-



Excavations at the prehistoric site at Moenjodaro showing the great Stupa.

Among the artefacts recovered in Moenjodaro are painted earthenware with floral designs, children's toys made of baked clay including stumped bulls with movable heads and a bull cart which is remarkably like the carts being used in the interior of Sind even today. Pieces of pottery, terracotta, agate and steatite indicate that the people used to play some game like chess. They also played dice long before the game reached Europe. Figurines which have been unearthed, show a passion for jewellery.

Seals and some other articles with pictographic writing have also been discovered. Some of the symbols of the Indus writing are easy to decipher. They are short or long vertical strokes numbering from one to 12. But so far no long inscriptions have been found and no "Rosetta Stone" has been discovered which could help to decipher the Indus script.

In an effort to clarify and read the Indus writing, several attempts have been made to collect the inscriptions, arrange them in some order, determine the number of symbols, specify the basic meaning of signs and follow the definite form of the symbols as they undergo changes.

A team of Soviet scientists has tried to read the Indus writing on the basis of Dravidian language. The latest work on this has been done by Asko Parpola and his colleagues from the Institute of Asian Studies in Copenhagen, by bringing together in one place the entire material suitably arranged with the help of a computer. Short inscriptions engraved mainly on seals, sealings and bronze tablets depicting animal figures such as bull, unicorn, tiger, elephant, etc. The seals carry the negative of the inscriptions and it is their decipherment which gives the positive reading.

The ruins of Moenjodaro remained in an excellent state of preservation so long as they lay buried beneath the accumulated layers of thousands of years. But as soon as they were exposed from oblivion they began suffering rapidly from the twin menace of waterlogging and salinity caused by modern irrigation systems. Pakistan has been using mud-capping and washing with salt-free water as the means to slow decay, but the threat calls for drastic and radical measures to avert danger to the very existence of one of the cultural legacies of the human race.

It was this impending tragedy which impelled the Pakistan Government in 1960 to solicit

the first instance, it aims at controlling ground water in the area by constructing slanting barriers in the river to deflect its current and turn it away from the site, and a ring of about 45 tubewells around the excavated area to lower the water table. At present, the water table is seasonally from 1.5 metres to 3.5 metres below the surface. Through capillary action water also rises about 2.4 metres above the ground level and introduces salts into the bricks. It is considered necessary to keep the water level to a depth of 65 feet below the surface to save the monuments and to do further digging for more Indus treasures.

Three years ago the entire project was estimated to cost about \$13m, including more than \$3.3m in foreign exchange. The present cost is, however, expected to rise to \$21m because of inflation. For the first phase of the master plan estimated originally to cost \$7.5m, the UNESCO Director-General appealed to member states for contributions of \$5m last year. But the appeal has met so far with a dismal response. Only the West Germans have donated \$377,000 and a few smaller states have contributed a total of about \$23,000.

The Authority for Preservation of Moenjodaro set up by the Government of Pakistan about four years ago, is apparently getting impatient over this international apathy. There is a lurking suspicion that the western countries are withholding financial and other assistance as a means of their cause of Pakistan's non-alignment support to the move to oust Israel. Except for a promise of \$100,000 by the Shah of Iran, no other Muslim state of the oil-rich Middle East has made any offer of help. Pakistan has lately urged UNESCO to make a fresh bid to induce the affluent western countries to make donations without which the City of Dead may never be resurrected.

Hasan Akhtar

Gibbon's Latin lessons for the modern world

We have come to the bicentenary not only of the American Declaration of Independence and Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, but also of Edward Gibbon's *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, one of the first quarto volumes was published in February, 1776. The original impression was only 500 copies, but the printer, Strahan, opted for twice that figure. Two and then three impressions were sold out quickly, "and the bookseller's property was twice invaded by the pirates of the press." Gibbon remarked that the book "may, perhaps, a hundred years hence, still continue to be abused." Now, when twice the duration of time has passed, it is still eulogized and praised, and even, if only in revised versions, read. For one thing, round though its style unashamedly is, the *Decline and Fall* still retains that all too rare quality of readability: Gibbon's history has caused him to be described as the most amusing historian who has ever lived, with the possible exception of Herodotus. Besides, although inevitably overtaken at many points by subsequent research, the work is filled with judgments that still seem remarkably incisive. Its overall plan, however, is more disquieting. Starting (like one of his models, the *Annals of Tacitus*) with a retrospective of Augustus, it carries right on to the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. But this was a second thought, and much the better portion of the book, historically speaking, is its more detailed first part, going down to the fall of the western Roman Empire in 476.

This gives us another anniversary: it was just 1,500 years ago that the last western emperor, the young Romulus Augustus, contemptuously

The fall of the Roman empire was a revolution which will ever be remembered and is still felt by the nations of the earth... and may be usefully applied to the instruction of the present age

known as Augustulus, was compelled, after a skirmish in the woods outside his capital Ravenna, to abdicate into comfortable retirement. Modern scholars deplore excessive attention to this somewhat anticlimactic event, regarding other dates in the period as more important. Yet it remains a valid landmark. After all, from that year onwards there were no more emperors of the Roman west in Italy, for the first time since the beginning of our era. During the century before 476 there had been a spectacular collapse of the imperial western power. Gibbon, ignoring whatever benefits the successor states may have conferred upon the world, called this phenomenon, with some justice, "the greatest, perhaps, and most awful scene in the history of mankind." And he therefore addressed himself to analysing its background.

But he did so in a disconcerting fashion. For although the immense sweep of his work established in the words of Lytton Strachey, "the miracle of order over the chaos of a thousand years", Gibbon does not ever tell us why the empire fell. Or rather, he tells us too often and in varying terms that he piles on no fewer than two dozen quite different reasons why the fall occurred, introducing them one after another, in many separate passages which he never makes any attempt to knit together. Roughly speaking, these numerous, divergent explanations fall into two categories. One of them comprised the impersonal causes: Gibbon had learnt from Montesquieu—including his famous assaults on "barbarism and Christianity", and the statement that "the stupendous fabric yielded to the pressure of its own weight". But we also find the personal "causes" which his

events cannot essentially injure our general sense of happiness, the system of arts and laws and manners, which so advantageously distinguish above the rest of mankind the Europeans and their colonies." A breakdown from outside, he argued, seemed highly unlikely, and a breakdown from within was out of the question.

Gibbon, whose *History* often reacts sensitively to the contemporary scene around him, was expressing these complacent sentiments before the American and French Revolutions had broken out. If he had written today, I believe that the principal "instruction" for our modern selves which he would have found in the later Roman Empire would have been its disunity. For whereas that empire had duly repelled its invaders in the third century AD, it failed to repel them in the fifth, because its internal disabilities between group and group, and between class and class, had passed beyond the point of tolerable proportions into a phase of perpetual deteriorating internal conflicts, which undermined the entire structure of the empire. Franklin, at the Declaration of Independence, recognized that this was America's problem too. "Yes," he declared, "we must, indeed, all hang together, or we shall all hang separately." To some extent, Gibbon's history has never fully solved this ancient Roman problem: but Britain suffers from it more damagingly still. "We cannot, any longer," it was said at one of our recent elections, "afford the luxury of teaching ourselves apart." Which was what ancient Rome did.

Michael Grant

The Fall of the Roman Empire, by Michael Grant, is published by Thomas Nelson, £6.95.

The strength and sacrifice of the political 'resigner'

George Hutchinson

Nothing so becomes a politician as the willingness—the spirit, the integrity—to resign office on grounds of principle. The aside over to personal interest and the pursuit of power, the winds, is greatly to be admired. Some who have done so were Anthony Eden (resigned as Foreign Secretary 1955), Harold Wilson (resigned as Prime Minister 1963), and others. But the most effective go—Sir Oswald Mosley, Anthony Nutting, George Brown.

In all they number about 70 in the present century, some more important, some less. Whether or not you agree with their reasons for resignation, they represent a political elite set apart by independence of mind, free will and courage—and this is especially true, perhaps, of those who were never asked to prosper (except in reputation).

I was thinking about Anthony Nutting the other day—and not for the first time since his resignation over Suez, 20 years ago. He was 36 years of age, and Minister of State at the Foreign Office. He had been an MP since he was 25. He was the best known and best liked of the younger lions in the Tory Party—fitted, personable, rich (and, thereby free), an established figure in the prevailing hierarchy, already a Privy Councillor.

In my own estimation—and this is not a casual thought—he might today be the leader of the Conservative Party but for his brave decision over Suez, an issue that divided the nation,

Then in 1963, accompanied by Iain Macleod he refused to serve in the Douglas-Home administration. Mr Powell is, so to speak, a resigner by nature: he has remained a powerful political force.

Others, like Anthony Nutting, are now withdrawn from parliamentary life—John Freeman, Frank Cousins, Ray Gunter. We can still salute them. They had the courage of their convictions. That is as good a compliment as you can pay in anyone.

Within the swollen and still swelling budget of the Greater London Council, a sum of £10,000 may be called small beer. But in any consideration of expenditure the purpose—the object—is no less important than the amount.

This particular amount is what the GLC, Labour-controlled, has decided to spend on commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the General Strike, which falls in May. The General Strike of 1926 was, of course, a great political event, and it is worth commemorating it as it will be in innumerable articles and broadcasts in coming months. But is it a proper subject for public subscription?

The answer must surely be no—except to Labour zealots. The taxpayers of London, whom the GLC controls, are being asked—indeed they are required—to subsidize a propaganda exercise on behalf of the Labour Party.

But perhaps they are also intending to mark and celebrate the contribution of special constables and other auxiliaries who went to the fore in the aid. I rather doubt it, though.

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1976

Sportsview

Why grass is greener on the golf course



Peter Thomson: compensation.

The fastest growing "sport" in Australia is the former Test cricketer, Peter Burke; what he gains ground on Colin McIlhenny in the race to the 25 stone mark. Golf, likewise, is rapidly expanding, in a land which has as favourable a climate for it as any in the world. Hardy is the kookaburra down from his perch, soon after five o'clock the morning when the golfers are joining him on the fairways.

No one has had more to do with this golfing boom, both directly and indirectly, than Peter Thomson, who has played the game, and looked while playing, as if he was a world class player. At 46 he remains an uncompromisingly athletic figure. I went to see him the other day at his home in Melbourne. The Thomson's house guests were the Bensons, Richie being in Melbourne for the last Test match between Australia and West Indies which had finished that morning. It is fair, I think, to say that over the last 20 years Benaud has been to Australian cricket what Thomson has been to Australian golf.

The wives were by the swimming pool, Thomson's two daughters, and a young man, they got back from school. Richie was playing golf with Ian Chappell, on one of Melbourne's many courses. On another of them, Thomson, now president of the Australian Professional Golfers' Association, had just returned a 79 in the first round of the Victorian Open. Having played very little since last October he was short of practice. He had taken to his typewriter and written an article for the *Melbourne Age* in which, as he was, he had gone round in 69. It was all about Billy Dunk, who had just won the title of 10 water table, a seasonally from 1.5 metres to 3.5 metres below the surface. Through capillary action water also rises about 2.4 metres above the ground level and introduces salts into the bricks. It is considered necessary to keep the water level to a depth of 65 feet below the surface to save the monuments and to do further digging for more Indus treasures.

Three years ago the entire project was estimated to cost about \$13m, including more than \$3.3m in foreign exchange. The present cost is, however, expected to rise to \$21m because of inflation. For the first phase of the master plan estimated originally to cost \$7.5m, the UNESCO Director-General appealed to member states for contributions of \$5m last year. But the appeal has met so far with a dismal response. Only the West Germans have donated \$377,000 and a few smaller states have contributed a total of about \$23,000.

The Authority for Preservation of Moenjodaro set up by the Government of Pakistan about four years ago, is apparently getting impatient over this international apathy. There is a lurking suspicion that the western countries are withholding financial and other assistance as a means of their cause of Pakistan's non-alignment support to the move to oust Israel. Except for a promise of \$100,000 by the Shah of Iran, no other Muslim state of the oil-rich Middle East has made any offer of help. Pakistan has lately urged UNESCO to make a fresh bid to induce the affluent western countries to make donations without which the City of Dead may never be resurrected.

Which brings me back to Thomson. To him the reluctance of cricketers to practise cricket has always been surprising. To Boycott it is irritating, because it takes two to practise cricket, and only one to practise golf. Boycott told me once that he would prefer to have been a case of the grass at Cammer, St Andrews, looking greener than at Headingley or Lord's.

John Woodcock

سكنا من الامل



BEKING'S FAVOURITE PRESIDENT

A BRICK IS A ROSE IS A PRIMROSE

It is Britain's duty to make clear the options before those

If the White Rhodesians are determined to invite destruction to Britain, can do nothing to save them. Mr. Wilson has schooled President Kendera's to a sensible bloodbath. If that happens, Britain's responsibility will be to succour the innocent, to give asylum to the threatened, to receive its own passport holders, to undertake resettlement and reconstruction. But there are still ways to be found and there is still time to avoid these extremes. The question is and has been raised whether Mr. Smith and his party bosses are ready to make a sincere and realistic—and one might add penitent—effort to act at the eleventh hour.

EDUCATION

partly because it shows a great lack of political sophistication for people to use logical arguments against way of planning permissions. The main reason is that for a period

the problems of people
themselves unable to

For one section of the population From Mr Iain McGilchrist

Increase in rail fare

Mercenaries' passports

Roberts' saucer. In that the pro-literal sense that would have

Selection of judges

National Theatre prices

From Mr. Roy Waits: Sir, The management at the Lyceum must be relieved that none of your correspondents has reminded me of the riot at the Lyceum. Riots at Covent Garden, in 1899. After destruction by fire in the previous year the rebuilt theatre opened its doors on September 18. The seats were covered with a carpet of cheap seats had been converted into expensive boxes, 3s shilling seats now cost 6d, and the price went up from 3s 6d to four shillings. Kemble as Macbeth. He was booed, booed and hissed. Mrs Siddons appeared to plead for him and, according to Leigh Hunt, "there was a general outbreak of hissing." The audience then broke into a mock-solemn dance, pounding the floor to the reiterated chant, "O.P., O.P." (old prices), and did not disperse until the theatre was empty.

This went on every night for nearly three months, until December 14, when Kemble met 300 of the rioters at the "OP Dinner" at the Crown and Anchor, where he gave in to all their demands, including the resignation of the house manager, Mr Brandon, though this was agreed only after a further night of disorder.

So would anyone care to come dancing at the Lyttelton next month? And will Peter Hall invite us all to dinner afterwards? And what about Peter Stevens?

Yours faithfully,
ROY WATERS,
5 Rusham Road, SW12.
February 17.

ts in art

literal sense that would have

astonished Ruskin): a pot of pailor--
 st the public; but that way lies
 martyrdom--and glory.
 Yours faithfully,
 EDWARD LOWBURY.
 79 Vernon Road,
 Edgbaston,
 Birmingham.

From Mr Rory McEwen
 Sir, I was depressed to hear that you had been

on, it was depressing to see *The*

The point at issue, which he misses, then as now, is surely whether these artists

their intentions, or not. If they are serious, they may be difficult to come to terms with, as is the work of many modern musicians and poets, but they are indubitably artists, and should be supported in their hard and precarious profession by those who believe that art must occupy an important place in life.

Otherwise, they can only be dismissed as either idiots or cunning charlatans, and in the case of Carl Andre, the facts simply do not support either of these assumptions.

Come back Bernard Levin.
Yours faithfully,
TORY MCWEEN,
Sardochra,
Colmonell Girvan.

Racing

An injured finger that Capes keeps crossed

eventually be capable of something higher than his sixth place in the 100-metre race.

British Eric has another two thirds of a second to find in the 50 metres hurdles if he is to play a significant part in the 100-metre women's semifinals, where Sonia Lapeere steps up to defend the title won for Britain by Andrea Lynch at Kewtice a year ago. Lynch is a 100-metre specialist, leading by the varying standards of timekeeping around Europe.

The 4,000 metres, so often a canny place for celebration these championships, may possibly warm our hearts again as R. Smollett, one of Britain's best 4,000-metre runners, does not all have that incomparable indoor runner, Eric Pitzemann, Belgium, among his rivals. Smollett, who has won the 1981 world-class runners never to have won a big title, could use his experience of the 1981 Olympic 5,000 metres aspirations but the margin between first and fourth is likely to be small.

At the 100-metre hurdles, very little on both mud and boards has been displayed these past months. Glen Grant will have to make sure he is not out of the running the way in the 1,500 metres, and a remaining member of the British 100-metre hurdles team, John Turner, will also be facing two

Nottingham programme

[illegible]

Disparity in league record points to Oxford victory

[illegible]

3 200023 Shinto (C01 (S. Bosley), O. Hichol
4 3-11202 Favedo (Mrs A. Tudor), R. Akchurak
5 213221 The Bay Turk (T. Bayley), S. Palmer,
6 00-0000 Andy Scott (Mrs J. Holmer), T. G.

[illegible]

11 021224 Sunshine Sam (Mrs D. Richards), O. R.
12 Sparrow (T. Jenkins), W. Clay. 8-10-8.

[illegible]

—Lady Spirit (Charlotte Lady Rever, 7-11-12)	Stallion.
1. Slack 13-1 Lev1	1 Yellow Strong
2. Palmer 110-50.	2 Near And Far

[illegible]

**Radical change
in format
of Ryder Cup**

Los Angeles, Feb. 20.—The winners of the Los Angeles Open Golf tournament, which was the first round of the Glen Camber open golf tournament here, were the Philadelphia club members who won the Philadelphia tournament last year, had finished birdies in his round. Watson also had a hole in one, but the Philadelphia club members won over par in their rounds.

LEADING SCORES: 66, 1st round: 67, 2nd round: 68, 1st round: 69, 2nd round: 70, 3rd round: 71, 4th round: 72, 5th round: 73, 6th round: 74, 7th round: 75, 8th round: 76, 9th round: 77, 10th round: 78, 11th round: 79, 12th round: 80, 13th round: 81, 14th round: 82, 15th round: 83, 16th round: 84, 17th round: 85, 18th round: 86, 19th round: 87, 20th round: 88, 21st round: 89, 22nd round: 90, 23rd round: 91, 24th round: 92, 25th round: 93, 26th round: 94, 27th round: 95, 28th round: 96, 29th round: 97, 30th round: 98, 31st round: 99, 32nd round: 100, 33rd round: 101, 34th round: 102, 35th round: 103, 36th round: 104, 37th round: 105, 38th round: 106, 39th round: 107, 40th round: 108, 41st round: 109, 42nd round: 110, 43rd round: 111, 44th round: 112, 45th round: 113, 46th round: 114, 47th round: 115, 48th round: 116, 49th round: 117, 50th round: 118, 51st round: 119, 52nd round: 120, 53rd round: 121, 54th round: 122, 55th round: 123, 56th round: 124, 57th round: 125, 58th round: 126, 59th 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117th round: 185, 118th round: 186, 119th round: 187, 120th round: 188, 121st round: 189, 122nd round: 190, 123rd round: 191, 124th round: 192, 125th round: 193, 126th round: 194, 127th round: 195, 128th round: 196, 129th round: 197, 130th round: 198, 131st round: 199, 132nd round: 200, 133rd round: 201, 134th round: 202, 135th round: 203, 136th round: 204, 137th round: 205, 138th round: 206, 139th round: 207, 140th round: 208, 141st round: 209, 142nd round: 210, 143rd round: 211, 144th round: 212, 145th round: 213, 146th round: 214, 147th round: 215, 148th round: 216, 149th round: 217, 150th round: 218, 151st round: 219, 152nd round: 220, 153rd round: 221, 154th round: 222, 155th round: 223, 156th round: 224, 157th round: 225, 158th round: 226, 159th round: 227, 160th round: 228, 161st round: 229, 162nd round: 230, 163rd round: 231, 164th round: 232, 165th round: 233, 166th round: 234, 167th round: 235, 168th round: 236, 169th round: 237, 170th round: 238, 171st round: 239, 172nd 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406, 339th round: 407, 340th round: 408, 341st round: 409, 342nd round: 410, 343rd round: 411, 344th round:

Latest European snow reports

Latest European snow reports									
	Depth (cm)			Conditions		Weather (3 pm)			
	G	U		Plate	Off Piste				
Angere	65	120		Fair	Crest	--	Sun	4	
Swiss spring snow									
Champery	30	80		Good	Varied	Fine			
Wet patches on lower slopes									
Crans	30	100		Good	Varied	Fine			
Still suitable to village									
Davos	30	120		Good	Varied	Fine			
Lower slopes fair									
Nieschotel	45	100		Good	Varied	Fine			
Sun melting snow on lower slopes									
Les Menuires	75	140		Good	Heavy	Time			
Good stiliing over 2000 metres									
Saund	70	160		Good	Powder	Cloud			
Good powder snow on hard base									
Seefeld	53	105		Good	Heavy	Fine			
Good piste, some worn patches									
Val Isère	95	170		Good	Varied	Fine			
Good skiing conditions									
Val Thorens	45	100		Good	Varied	Sun			
Spring snow on south slopes									

In the above snow reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.

The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm)	U	Plate	Weather	°C
FRANCE					
Chamonix	105 170	Good	Sun		-10
La Grande	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
La Plagne	107 180	Good	Sun		-10
La Tignes	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
Val d'Isère	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
SWITZERLAND					
St Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
GERMANY					
St. Wolfgang	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
ITALY					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
SPAIN					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
SWEDEN					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
NORWAY					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
FINLAND					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
POLAND					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
CZECHOSLOVAKIA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
SLOVAKIA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
HUNGARY					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
ROMANIA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
BULGARIA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
GREECE					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
TURKEY					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
USSR					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
CHINA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
JAPAN					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
USA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
CANADA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
SOUTH AMERICA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10
AFRICA					
St. Moritz	105 180	Good	Sun		-10

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment
and finance,
pages 20 and 21

State industry chiefs to renew claim for big salary increases

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

Claims for substantial increases in the salaries of the men who direct Britain's big nationalized industries are to be resubmitted to the Prime Minister.

The chairman of 16 state industry boards are to meet on Wednesday at the Electricity Council's headquarters under the chairmanship of Sir William Ryland, the Post Office Corporation's chairman, to discuss their grievances and the Government's refusal to implement an award made over a year ago.

They are being told that the support of trade union leaders in spite of the fact that pay rises for those earning more than £8,500 a year. The grounds are that those in major public posts have not been given a general pay rise for some time, setting an example during an unprecedented period of inflation not followed by any others in high-income groups.

In December 1974 Lord Boyle's Independent Top Salaries Review Body recommended a 10 per cent rise, but the case was recently restated in Lord Diamond's report from the royal commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth on the subject of higher incomes.

The heads of big nationalized industries, while accepting the government's case, are worried that if they do not press the case now, they may face new restrictions, for the TUC has apparently decided to ask for a ceiling of £20,000 on top salaries.

The chairman feel adjustments will have to be made to allow reasonable differentials in top management pay and to help hold people in the public sector as well as attract newcomers to big jobs in state enterprises.

Mr Wilson from the Boyle recommendation made in December 1974, though MPs were awarded £12,500 a year rise just before the 16 limit was applied to those earning under £8,500.

After the report the Government has promised to consider all requests for higher salaries.

Under the Boyle recommendations, Sir Monty Finnemore, British Steel chairman, who is paid £21,000 a year, would go from £23,100 to £40,000.

Various other state chairmen, covering railways, gas and electricity, would go to £30,000, £25,000, £20,000 and £18,000 respectively.

The big question is whether the recognition of the need for generating board was attempting to create a balanced fuel supply and, noting the vast sums being spent by the oil industry in developing the North Sea fields, he said that it could not "pull the rug from under the feet of the oil companies".

At a time when nationalized industries were being asked to cut expenditure it would be "quite ridiculous" to embark on a policy of converting existing power stations in view of the unlikelihood of new stations being ordered before 1980.

The coal board says that there is no case for new oil-fired capacity and told Mr Benn that all the main conventional power stations should be capable of burning coal by the 1990s.

Sir Derek and Mr Hawkins are agreed, however, in wanting a revenue-earning, as well as a natural gas supply, to be conserved and give a measure of protection in the market to coal.

But Mr Hawkins said the generating board was attempting to create a balanced fuel supply and, noting the vast sums being spent by the oil industry in developing the North Sea fields, he said that it could not "pull the rug from under the feet of the oil companies".

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White Paper worries equities and long gilts

By Our Financial Staff

Both long-dated gilts and equities reacted unfavourably on the London stock market yesterday to the White Paper on public spending.

While the short end of the fixed-interest market was able to overcome early nervousness and close with marginal gains, "longs" drifted down three quarters of a point in quiet trading. An attempt at a rally around midday soon petered out.

The same considerations brought widespread losses around the equity market. Though the market was firmer at the end, the 377 index was still down 4.8 to 391.9—a drop of 13.6 for the week and of 15.6 for the two-week period.

But dealers emphasized that the lack of buyers rather than real selling pressure and they do not expect heavy falls next week in what is still essentially a firm market.

Worries over the effects of spending programme cuts brought some heavy losses to construction industry shares, but gold issues, after several days of decline, made a strong rally with late United States support.

Among the "blue chips" the best performer was ICI, helped by its better-than-expected results on Thursday. But Unilever's share, which had been a steady performer, proved to be the weakest.

Construction industry shares apart, another soft spot was a high street superstore where "fears" of the effects of consumer expenditure took their toll.

Investor's week, page 21

Liquidator finds Norton plant offer acceptable

By Clifford Webb

Mr Kenneth Morgan, the liquidator for Norton Villiers, Wolverhampton, confirmed yesterday that a consortium led by the Australian businessman Mr Ronald Tait had made a provisional offer to buy the motor cycle plant which was acceptable to him.

But he said the deal could not be completed until it had been approved by the debenture holders and creditors. The banks will consider the offer next Wednesday.

It is understood that the offer involves the purchase of the factory buildings for £750,000. This would give Mr Tait immediate access. He would then lease the plant and equipment and be licensed to operate there.

At the same time he would contract to find the balance of the total purchase price—about £3m—within 90 days.

A rival consortium represented by Mr Peter Constantine, Cardiff, told Mr Morgan yesterday that they might be expected to put their bid before him some time next week.

£25m state aid for investment

New industrial investment totalling more than £152m and backed by £25m of state assistance has been approved since the Government introduced its latest industrial incentives for companies.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said last night that the schemes would produce a balance of investment worth £152m and £25m of state aid.

"Surely here is an example of the effective and economical use of public money we must look for increasingly," Mr Varley, speaking to Wakefield Chamber of Commerce, said that a Department of Industry survey suggested that a 10-15 per cent increase in capital expenditure in industry would finally happen in 1977, the first for three years.

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Wall St again beats trading record

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 20

Share trading volumes on United States stock exchanges are daily setting new records as the Dow Jones industrial share index surges upward towards the 1,000 level, which has not been reached since January, 1973.

Wall Street today broke its trading volume record for the second consecutive day, with 44.31 million shares changing hands compared with yesterday's 39.21 million.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 12.04 points up at 987.80, after having risen 15.67 points yesterday.

Brokers report increasing evidence of strengthening investor confidence. A further boost to sentiment was provided today with the news that American business prices had risen for the first time in January to register the smallest monthly gain since July, 1973.

But dealers emphasized that the lack of buyers rather than real selling pressure and they do not expect heavy falls next week in what is still essentially a firm market.

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Construction industry shares apart, another soft spot was a high street superstore where "fears" of the effects of consumer expenditure took their toll.

Investor's week, page 21

Bank call for societies to cut rates

By Margaret Stone

A long range warning was delivered to the building society movement last night by one of Britain's senior bankers.

Mr Deryk Weyer, senior general manager of Barclays Bank, said last night that he hoped that building societies would reduce their investment rates to avoid increasing the cost of bank funds to industry.

He added that it would be a matter of concern if competition between the banks and the building societies for deposits had the ultimate effect of diverting the supply of funds from industry to the societies or making those funds more expensive.

Mr Weyer did make the particular point of reminding the building society movement that "there was a time not so long ago when we restrained our deposit interest so as not to embarrass the building societies".

But he said the deal could not be completed until it had been approved by the debenture holders and creditors. The banks will consider the offer next Wednesday.

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But he said the deal could not be completed until it had been approved by the debenture holders and creditors. The banks will consider the offer next Wednesday.

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Felixstowe to consider new bid by Ferries

By John Breunan

Mr Keith Wickenden, chairman of European Ferries, confirmed that the £6.8m offer for Felixstowe Dock and Railway, announced on Thursday, is "significantly higher" than the conditional terms rejected by the Felixstowe board last week.

Once they receive the formal offer documents, the port's directors are to reconsider their opposition to the ferry group's bid, which counters the £5.24m takeover offer by the British European Dock Board.

European Ferries is offering five of its ordinary shares for every two of Felixstowe's ordinary stock units. Yesterday European Ferries shares dipped 2p to 70p, while Felixstowe's stock rose 10p to 155p.

Felixstowe's shareholders will receive an additional 15p cash per share if the bid is accepted by the docks board to enable it to carry out its bid.

The Bill has had a very slow passage through Parliament so far, being the subject of a number of blocking motions and proposals for amendment. As it is a private, rather than a government-backed motion, the Government may have to permit time for its debate if the Bill is to be passed by July or August, the date suggested by the docks board.

European Ferries, which is one of the largest users of the Felixstowe docks, decided to go ahead with its bid, despite the board's opposition, after discussions with port employees.

At a meeting on Wednesday members of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, voted to take a neutral line on both the docks board's and European Ferries' bids.

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Agreement to harmonize export credit conditions

By Brussels, Feb 20

Six industrialized nations, including Britain, the United States and Japan, have reached a tentative agreement on harmonizing export credit conditions, including the export of arms.

The sources said the agreement, subject to government approval, was hammered out last week by experts of Britain, the United States, Japan, France, West Germany and Italy meeting in Paris.

The agreement is aimed at avoiding any competitive outbidding on export credit terms among the world's main export nations.

The sources said that under the tentative agreement reached in Paris, all six nations broadly agreed not to go beyond an interest rate of 7.5 per cent for any official export credit extended up to five years and a minimum rate of 8 per cent for credits running longer than five years.

The agreement also stipulates that the export of arms in any credit can be considered as official economic aid.

Export credit financing of satellite ground stations, shipbuilding and of aircraft is understood to have been excluded from the agreement.

The Community Code of Justice has ruled that export credits are essentially a matter of trade policy for which the Community as a whole is responsible.

Even at the risk of running into legal trouble, France, with West Germany backing, is understood to be determined to negotiate independently with non-EEC nations on export credits.

AP-Dow Jones.

Italy acts to aid weak companies

Rome, Feb 20

Italy's inter-ministerial economic planning committee announced today that seven concerns, four of them foreign, would be the first beneficiaries of a decree in January providing 100,000 lire (about £6.4m) to "salvage" weak companies.

The foreign concerns, which are in various stages of liquidation and court litigation, include Leyland-Innocenti, a Milan company formerly owned by British Leyland.

Under the decree, which has not yet been ratified by Parliament, a Government holding company, will take over the employment of the estimated total of 10,000 workers.

It will immediately lay them off, but their continued formal "employment" will make them eligible for holiday benefits, which would vary between 50 per cent and 85 per cent of their usual salaries.

AP-Dow Jones.

BP pipeline order

Pipelaying contracts in the Shetlands worth £8m have been awarded by British Petroleum to William Press and Son and Laird and Marine Engineering.

The lines will feed the Brent and Ninian marine pipelines from their landfalls at Grut Wick and Firths Voe into the joint venture at Sullom Voe.

Kodak investing £10m

Capital expenditure of about £10m this year was announced yesterday by Kodak in Britain, a large part of it covering the purchase of a 550-acre site near Nottingham which is to be developed over the next 25 years.

Company news, page 20

Iran 'seeks yen loan'

Iran is asking Japan for a yen loan equivalent to \$1,000m (£500m) to help finance construction of a 500,000-barrel a day oil refining plant, according to Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the financial daily.

AP-Dow Jones.

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3.7 million Electra shares not taken up

Underwriters have been left to take up 3.7 million of the 12.5 million shares offered for sale this week in Electra Investment Trust.

When application lists for the offer closed yesterday and last night, institutional investors may have been put off by the market uncertainty after the White Paper on public expenditure—applications had been received for a total of 8.8 million shares.

Proceeds of the offer, totalling nearly £11m, go to the parent company vendors, Globe and Cable investment trusts, which after the offer still hold almost 75 per cent of Electra equity capital between them. Letters of acceptance will be posted in time for dealings to start on Wednesday.

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How the markets moved

Rises

Blackman & C 1p to 20p
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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Building societies

The 11 per cent myth for the big borrower

How much do you pay for your mortgage? Or if you haven't yet bought a house, how much interest would you expect to pay?

Most of those who gave 11 per cent as the answer to the second question are likely to be right. But there is a growing band of housebuyers who could be in for a rude awakening when they look at the mortgage interest rate some building societies could propose.

Contrary to the widely held view, the 11 per cent mortgage interest rate recommended by the Building Societies Association is not the rate which building societies must charge their members. It is the minimum rate at which societies may offer advances to borrowers. There is no equivalent maximum rate recommended by the BSA.

For years smaller building societies have always quoted over the odds both to investors and to prospective borrowers; and, again, it is generally understood that a further 1 per cent, or even 1½ per cent, is added to the cost of an endowment mortgage.

But what has not been appreciated by the public is that over the past couple of years the major societies, which between them handle the bulk of home loans, have begun to introduce a system of differential mortgage interest rates for conventional repayment type mortgages.

The accompanying table shows how widespread this practice has become, with only five of the country's top 15 societies still operating on a standard mortgage interest rate of 11 per cent for all loans, whatever their size.

The other societies offer in the main 11 per cent on all loans up to £13,000. Until recently this was the threshold for special requirements (category of larger loans for which building societies may only earmark a fairly low proportion of their total lending).

After that the pattern varies: some societies add 1½ per cent, Abbey National, add 1 per cent

to all loans in excess of £13,000, but the majority operate a sliding scale of increased interest rates for larger advances. The bands and interest rates vary from Bradford & Bingley's additional 0.1 per cent for each £1,000 of advances in the Alliance's two jumps of 1 per cent at £13,000 and then £15,000.

Several societies, including the Abbey National and Nationwide, introduced the higher charges for more expensive loans in 1973 when the house-buying public was still tempted to trade expensively upwards, although, as it happened, the fortunes of the building society movement were approaching their nadir.

Many societies tried to attract funds from investors by offering term shares for a specified number of years at a more generous interest rate. These offers were successful and term shares now account for more than 7 per cent of savings balances with societies. However, they have to be paid for; hence differential mortgage interest rates.

This is the standard answer put forward by building societies for the introduction of higher mortgage rates for some borrowers. It overlooks the fact that societies like the Halifax, Woolwich Equitable and the Leicester Permanent also offer term shares, but have not had to resort to differential mortgage interest rates.

However, the movement's circumstances are very different now. Money is flooding in, reducing the urgency to sell term shares, and there has been a big improvement in operating margins, so that the need for higher mortgage rates to offset share costs has diminished.

Instead, what has happened is that more and more societies have introduced them. The Bradford & Bingley, Britannia (previously the Leek & Westbourne) and Provincial all began a multi-tier rate system last year, while the Alliance and Hastings & Thanet jumped on the bandwagon only this year.

Rising scale of mortgage rates

Society	INTEREST PER SIZE OF LOAN					Endowment
	11%	11½%	11¾%	11½%	12%	
Halifax	All loans					11½%
Abbey National	Up to £13,000					Add 1%
Nationwide	Up to £11,000	£11,000-£13,000	£13,000-£15,000	£15,000-£17,000	Over £17,000	Add 1%
Leeds Permanent	All loans					11½%
Woolwich Equitable	All loans					11½%
Alliance	Up to £13,000		£13,000-£15,000		£15,000-£20,000	Add 1% to £13,000, Add 1½% over £13,000
Provincial	Up to £13,000		£13,000-£15,000		£15,000-£20,000	11½%
Britannia	Up to £13,000	£13,000-£15,000	£15,000-£17,000	£17,000-£20,000	Over £20,000	11½%
Leicester	All loans					11½%
Bradford & Bingley	Up to £10,000	Over £13,000 there is a rising scale of an additional 0.1% per £1,000 up to 12% on £20,000				Add 1%
Anglia	Up to £13,000	£13,000-£15,000	£15,000-£20,000	Over £20,000		Add 1%
Burnley	Up to £13,000	£13,000-£15,000			Over £15,000	Add 1% to £15,000, 12% over £15,000
Hastings and Thanet	Up to £13,000	£13,000-£15,000				11½% up to £13,000 then 12%
Bristol and West	All loans					11½%
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Up to £10,000	Over £10,000 by negotiation, with an upper limit of 12%				Add 1%

* Probably further 1½% over £25,000.

† Rates negotiable between £15,000-£20,000.

It is not an exaggeration to say that differential mortgage interest rates are likely to cause the biggest rise within the Building Societies Association that the movement has seen for some time. The table effectively shows the line-up of the opposing groups.

What intensifies the single-rate men most is the moral overtone which they suspect is inherent in the differential interest rate structure.

The argument put forward by many protagonists is that it is only the wealthier borrowers who are likely to need the larger loans which attract the higher interest rates; they can afford it and, anyway, after allowing for tax relief, the net cost is still low.

It is, indeed, arguable whether it comes within the scope of building society executives to make this particular kind of judgment. Their job is to lend money to prospective borrowers, which is not the same as deciding that Mr Smith is wealthier than Mr Jones and therefore ought to pay more for his home loan.

In the first place, it is by no means a foregone conclusion that the person with the larger loan is much better off (particularly in London and the South-east). Secondly, if there is to be discrimination between borrowers on these grounds, then the decision should be the Government's. It does, after all, have the mechanism to band if it felt so inclined; it could

abolish tax relief on higher rate mortgages.

What I find dismaying about differential mortgage rates is the way in which the societies have introduced them. This, I am afraid, can best be described as "surroundings". The public have not been told what is happening; nor, for that matter, have the press, part of whose job it is to pass on such information.

This office has received news of advantageous term shares in great and glorious detail, but not one of the societies listed above has publicized the introduction of higher rates.

Look in the Building Societies' Gazette for a comprehensive list (based on material pro-

vided by the societies), of investment and mortgage rates of all societies, including the term share ranges, but the societies in our table all quote only a single 11 per cent mortgage rate.

This does matter. Investors hoping for priority consideration when it comes to getting a loan later on need to know beforehand what the likely mortgage interest rate will be.

It is not a sufficient answer to say that only a few people are likely to be affected. More and more borrowers could, over the years, reach the higher rate thresholds; it is misleading not to spell out the implications.

Margaret Stone

Fixed interest investment

How to work out net redemption yield

My aged parent, upon whose estate I rely for guidance when it comes to rendering the more arcane aspects of fixed interest investment in common or garden English, informs me that she didn't understand a word of my last piece; no, not a word. Now for all the bickerings with which she revises the taxman's take, it is a fact that she is not paying 98 pence in the pound, nor anything like; and I feel that this may have inhibited her attempts at comprehension.

Nevertheless, I take her point and so I am issuing a plain warning: I propose to talk about the market and the opportunities which it presents in the companion section, but the paragraphs all refer to taxless readers—and there do seem to be a great many of them—who want to know how to work out a return at their own particular rate of tax in order that they may compare the merits of the investments available.

To compare, at either the net or the gross level, the merits of one stock against another, you have to know not merely what you are going to get at the end of the day (the value), and the income you are going to get meantime (the flat or running yield), but also over how long a period you are going to get it (the term). And once you bring the term into the picture, you are going to have to consider discounting the return you are to receive, as well.

Now I know many readers are going to start snorting wrathfully at this point, protesting vehemently that to discount the capital sum to become available at some future date, and the income arising meantime, is both unnecessary and misleading. And I have a certain amount of sympathy with them on this latter point. For, discounting future returns, one is trying to allow for the fact that money coming in later is not earning now; and, as far as I know, there is no satisfactory way of doing that while the future value of the pound and the interest to be obtained on it are matters on which Madame Rorane, mistress of the crystal ball, is as likely to be right as Mr Healey, the Chancellor.

If, however, to apply a rate of discount to future capital and income, is when you think about it, to beg more questions than you answer, not to apply a rate of discount is surely anomalous. For, what is the way in which the income due to you in 10 years' time, say, will be worth the same to you now as the same amount available today?

If a letter were to arrive on Monday morning containing a £100 dividend cheque from a mining company of which you had long despaired; and if, instead of spending it on champagne, you were to put it in the bank, you would be better off than if you had spent it on champagne.

Some companies issue policies very quickly after a premium has been paid, whereas there can be long time-lags with others. Obviously, it is more satisfactory to have the policy quickly, but the legal position would not be affected in any way if you should die before receiving the policy.

Whether a claim can be made depends on whether a valid contract exists, and this is not affected by the issue of a policy. That is because a policy is not a contract; it is simply evidence that a contract exists, and is necessary for practical rather than legal reasons, as it sets out in full the terms of the agreement between the insured and the insurance company.

If, however, there has been any change since the proposal, you must tell the company. For instance, it could happen that,

Enthusiasm and the gifted investor have, for the moment, parted company. All the recent speculation that the Bank of England would be unable to resist the pressure for a further reduction in minimum lending rates proves to have been a much wished-for thought. The Bank was held yesterday at 9½ per cent for the second week running and rates on local authority loans, which have been coming down through the week, can in consequence be expected to steady on Monday.

As against last week's 10½ per cent coupon on the negotiable yielding bonds, which may have been this time, but not I think, by much—anyone prepared to lock their money away for a couple of years can see 11½ per cent from South Tyne side; and a five-year £1,000 commitment will secure 12½ per cent from Coventry.

But I don't think I would be tempted in either case. True, the rates are better than the flat yield you will obtain on any similarly dated gilt, unless you are prepared to pay above par and incur a capital loss if you hold for redemption. But I think that we shall see interest rates hardening a little later in the year and there is no point in being locked into a low coupon investment when that occurs.

For the same reason any commitment to gilts now should be for the short term only. The worst of the fall on the White Paper measures is probably out of the way and there might be room for some advance ahead of the Budget. Again, the Transport 3 per cent 1978-88 and the British Gas 1990-95 look attractive for high tax payers, with the proviso that they watch their timing and are prepared to move out fast.

Since, however, most investors in gilts have an eye to the tax advantages, the rate of discount to be applied to the after-tax returns on investments is going to be a much more useful guide. Establishing it, in the absence of a computer, is tedious.

Let us assume, for the sake of simplicity, that the investor is to hold his gilt-edged stock to redemption (so that we know the capital sum with which he will end up), and that redemption is more than a year and a day away. The investor's net capital gains tax liability. He then needs to work out what income he will be receiving annually after tax.

Had he, for example, bought Exchequer 5 per cent 1986-89 at £50 last year, he would be receiving £100 per annum gross on every £100 invested; and if he is paying tax at 60 per cent, the income net comes down to £40 annually.

Having established this he then needs to work out the net of tax on the interest. The method of assessing the income can vary but the tax is always payable on January 1 in each tax year, or 30 days after the assessment is issued, whichever is later.

In the case of income received net of tax the rules are different. Where higher rate tax and/or the reduction in income surcharge is payable, the tax is calculated on the gross amount of income actually received in the tax year and the date of payment is July 6 after the end of the tax year, or 30 days after the assessment is issued, whichever is later.

The reader may have already guessed, or knows from experience, that where there are different sources of income it must be difficult—almost impossible—for the Inland Revenue to get the tax rates on each separate source right; and those taxpayers who do not have an accountant or other adviser need to keep a vigilant watch on what is going on. The differences between the rates of assessment and the different due dates for payment of the tax create the confusion that is our tax system.

Vera Di Palma

Insurance

Making sure the cover takes immediate effect

If you want to take out a life policy, there is generally rather more involved than simply signing on a dotted line. A fairly full proposal form may have to be completed. Not only will you have to give information about your occupation and date of birth (although the office will want to see your birth certificate as well), but you will also have to give information about your health, including medical treatment, and a full medical examination by your doctor, and give permission for the office to contact your doctor for information about yourself. Add you will be asked whether any other insurers have quoted a higher premium than that applicable for a first-class life.

If you are comparatively young, the amount of cover required is not particularly high, and if the answers to the various medical questions in the proposal form are satisfactory, the life office may accept your proposal without any more ado, although they may first send a routine letter of inquiry to your doctor—who will receive from them a modest fee for providing information from his records. You will then be asked to throw some fresh light on you for the company. For instance, he may know more about your health than he has told you. He may feel that it would not be helpful to tell you everything, and that it is best to keep you in the dark. But, of course, he

would have to disclose this information to an insurance company, although it would not pass on any details to you. It is unlikely that your application would be turned down solely on the strength of your doctor's reply. The insurance company would probably ask you to be examined by a doctor of its choosing.

Or the company may ask for a medical examination because you are outside its free medical limits. An examination, in that case, is simply routine.

Clearly, in the normal course of events, there will be a time lag between sending off the proposal, receiving back the acceptance letter and paying

any reason why you might be offered "special terms". Most offices accept between 90 and 95 per cent of proposers on normal terms, and very few people are turned down altogether.

The usual procedure is for a company to look at the proposal and seek any further information it needs (including a report from a doctor who is asked to examine you). Before you are covered, you have to accept the offer of life insurance and pay the premium.

Clearly, in the normal course of events, there will be a time lag between sending off the proposal, receiving back the acceptance letter and paying

the premium; and there is a possibility of death occurring during that period.

To try to overcome that difficulty, and no doubt, as some insurance companies will give you cover for say a month, when they receive the proposal form—if all looks well on the form and the sum assured (and your age), are within acceptable limits—as to be paid at the outset.

In this way, you can have immediate cover, if, however, for any reason, the company does not accept you, or quotes a loaded premium which is unacceptable to you, this cover will expire and your premium will be returned. If you are accepted, the temporary cover will be replaced by the permanent policy.

Normally, when a company issues an acceptance letter, it states that the assurance will come into force on payment of the first premium within 14 days of the date of the letter, provided no change has occurred in the circumstances affecting the proposal.

If you don't accept the offer, and pay the premium, until after the 14 day period, the company can seek for satisfactory evidence of continued good health before making the assurance effective. In practice, of course, a company is unlikely to make itself difficult if all looks well on the form and you are anxious to sell your policy.

If, however, there has been any change since the proposal, you must tell the company. For instance, it could happen that,

quite suddenly, you have to undergo surgery of one kind or another. Another point is that, if, since you filled up the proposal form, another company has quoted you a "loaded" premium, you must tell the insurers at this stage—even though you have no intention of accepting the other office's quotation.

That is one reason for not accepting a "loaded" premium. Be guided by a good broker, and obtain a quotation from a company which is likely to accept you on normal terms. Even though its normal rates may be higher than those of another company, almost certainly it will be better to be accepted by it, rather than to be quoted a loaded premium from another company.

Some companies issue policies very quickly after a premium has been paid, whereas there can be long time-lags with others. Obviously, it is more satisfactory to have the policy quickly, but the legal position would not be affected in any way if you should die before receiving the policy.

Whether a claim can be made depends on whether a valid contract exists, and this is not affected by the issue of a policy. That is because a policy is not a contract; it is simply evidence that a contract exists, and is necessary for practical rather than legal reasons, as it sets out in full the terms of the agreement between the insured and the insurance company.

John Drummond

Investment trust valuations

Company	Date of Valuation	Annual Dividend	Net Asset Value after deducting price-changes	Company	Date of Valuation	Annual Dividend	Net Asset Value after deducting price-changes
VALUATION MONTHLY							
1. Alliance	30.01.76	6.25	258.3	32. Ivory & Stone	30.01.76	1.4	69.5
2. Capital House	30.01.76	2.73	83.6	33. Second British Assets	30.01.76	1.5	202.3
3. Crossroads	30.01.76	84.8	24.4	34. Atlantic Assets	30.01.76	0.4	71.7
4. Direct Spanish Telegraph	30.01.76	3.5	64.3	35. J. J. & Sons Ltd	30.01.76	0.99	88.5
5. Dundas & London	30.01.76	1.85	72.0	36. Anglo-Jewish	30.01.76	1.37	83.1
6. Edinburgh	30.01.76	2.85	240.9	37. do Com Ltd	30.01.76	2.75	83.1
7. First Scottish American	2.02.76	1.58	83.5	38. Leopold Joseph & Sons Ltd	30.01.76	1.15	83.5
8. Granada	30.01.76	4.24	120.1	39. Thelma	30.01.76	2.4	78.5
9. Great Northern	30.01.76	1.75	99.8	40. Thelma	30.01.76	3.625	64.9
10. Guardian	30.01.76	4.57	248.8	41. Thompson & Co	30.01.76	1.0	120.4
11. Investment Services	30.01.76	1.0	98.5	42. Lazard Bros & Co Ltd	30.01.76	1.95	97.7
12. Investors Capital	30.01.76	1.25	133.5	43. Lazard Bros & Co Ltd	30.01.76	3.15	160.8
13. Jardine Japan	30.01.76	0.85	137.6	44. Ramsey	30.01.76	2.15	111.4
14. Kingside	30.01.76	2.55	133.5	45. Scottish Eastern	30.01.76	3.25	141.4
15. London & Holywood	30.01.76	2.0	129.2	46. Scottish Eastern	30.01.76	2.7	154.8
16. London & Montrose	30.01.76	2.0	129.2	47. Scottish Eastern	30.01.76	1.0	172.8
17. Mercantile	30.01.76	2.4	129.2	48. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
18. Northern American	30.01.76	2.3	114.3	49. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
19. Sars & Procter Ltd	30.01.76	1.0	132.5	50. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
20. Scottish North	30.01.76	1.55	107.3	51. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
21. Second Alliance	30.01.76	3.3	221.2	52. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
22. Shires Investment	30.01.76	4.1	209.8	53. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
23. Sterling	30.01.76	4.1	209.8	54. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
24. Technology	30.01.76	6.4	288.1	55. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
25. United British Securities	30.01.76	2.3	138.3	56. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
26. Valleys & Co.	30.01.76	2.3	138.3	57. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
27. Edinburgh & Dundee	30.01.76	1.05	67.1	58. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
28. Winton	30.01.76	3.5	246.5	59. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
29. Baring Bros & Co Ltd	6.02.76	1.8	124.9	60. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
30. British	27.01.76	9.6	873.5	61. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
31. Tribune	30.01.76	1.4	102.2	62. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
32. Cripps Warburg Ltd	30.01.76	0.15	57.3	63. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
33. West Coast	30.01.76	0.45	59.7	64. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
34. West Coast	30.01.76	1.0	132.5	65. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
35. American	30.01.76	1.0	132.5	66. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
36. American	30.01.76	4.5	177.0	67. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
37. Cable	30.01.76	58.25	2145.0	68. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
38. Cable	30.01.76	3.5	128.8	69. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
39. Cable	30.01.76	5.0	164.0	70. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
40. Cable	30.01.76	7.0	222.3	71. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
41. Cable	30.01.76	5.0	148.8	72. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
42. Cable	30.01.76	5.75	119.50	73. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
43. Cable	30.01.76	3.97	233.1	74. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
44. Cable	30.01.76	58.00	2145.0	75. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
45. Cable	30.01.76	0.5	64.6	76. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
46. Cable	30.01.76	1.0	132.5	77. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626.8
47. Cable	30.01.76	2.75	177.8	78. Western Canada	30.01.76	11.5	626

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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State industry chiefs to renew claim for big salary increases

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

Claims for substantial increases in the salaries of the men who direct Britain's big nationalized industries are to be resubmitted to the Prime Minister.

The chairman of 16 state industry boards are to meet on Wednesday at the Electricity Council's headquarters under the chairmanship of Sir William Ryland, the Post Office Corporation's chairman, to discuss their grievances and the Government's refusal to implement an award made over a year ago.

They are being to win the support of trade union leaders in spite of the fact that pay rises for those earning more than £8,500 a year. The grounds are that those in major public posts have not been given a general pay rise for some time, setting an example during an unprecedented period of inflation not followed by any others in high-income groups.

In December 1974 Lord Boyle's Independent Top Salaries Review Body recommended a 10 per cent rise, but the case was recently restated in Lord Diamond's report from the royal commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth on the subject of higher incomes.

The heads of big nationalized industries, while accepting the government's case, are worried that if they do not press the case now, they may face new restrictions, for the TUC has apparently decided to ask for a ceiling of £20,000 on top salaries.

The chairman feel adjustments will have to be made to allow reasonable differentials in top management pay and to help hold people in the public sector as well as attract newcomers to big jobs in state enterprises.

Mr Wilson from the Boyle recommendation made in December 1974, though MPs were awarded £12,500 a year rise just before the £6 limit was applied to those earning under £8,500.

After the report the Government has promised to consider all requests for higher salaries.

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Various other state chairmen, covering railways, gas and electricity, would go to £30,000, £25,000, £24,000 and £22,500.

A number of senior civil servants have also gone without recommended rises in reference to a national pay policy.

The big question is whether the recognition of the need for generating board was attempting to create a balanced fuel supply and, noting the vast sums being spent by the oil industry in developing the North Sea fields, he said that it could not "pull the rug from under the feet of the oil companies".

At a time when nationalized industries were being asked to cut expenditure it would be "quite ridiculous" to embark on a policy of converting existing power stations in view of the increased demand and the unlikelihood of new stations being ordered before 1980.

The coal board says that there is no case for new oil-fired capacity and told Mr Benn that all the main conventional power stations should be capable of burning coal in the 1990s.

Sir Derek and Mr Hawkins are agreed, however, in wanting a revenue-earning, as well as a natural gas supply, to be conserved and give a measure of protection in the market to coal.

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White Paper worries equities and long gilts

By Our Financial Staff

Both long-dated gilts and equities reacted unfavourably on the London stock market yesterday to the White Paper on public spending.

While the short end of the fixed-interest market was able to overcome early nervousness and close with marginal gains, "longs" drifted down three quarters of a point in quiet trading. An attempt at a rally around midday soon petered out.

The same considerations brought widespread losses around the equity market. Though the market was firmer at the end, the 377 index was still down 4.8 to 391.9—a drop of 13.6 for the week and of 15.6 for the two-week period.

But dealers emphasized that the lack of buyers rather than real selling pressure and they do not expect heavy falls next week in what is still essentially a firm market.

Worries over the effects of spending programme cuts brought some heavy losses to construction industry shares, but gold issues, after several days of decline, made a strong rally with late United States support.

Among the "blue chips" the best performer was ICI, helped by its better-than-expected results on Thursday. But Unilever, always a solid share and now regarded by some as the market leader, proved to be the weakest.

Construction industry shares apart, another soft spot was high street supermarkets where "food" shares, under review following last year's increases for MPs.

Heads of the Coal Board, the Gas Corporation, Steel Corporation, electricity authorities, the Airways Board, Airports Authority, British Airways, the Transport Docks Board, the British Waterways Board, the National Freight Corporation and the National Bus Company will be among those attending Wednesday's council of war.

The meeting takes place under the aegis of the fast-developing Nationalized Industries Group, which will eventually have its own funds secretariat and research facilities to deal with matters of mutual interest and to represent the industry on government issues, including relationships with government.

The chairman, Sir William Ryland, of the nationalized industries, do not expect any major changes in the next year's board members generally have suffered a more severe decline of the value of their take-home pay than virtually any other group of people. Senior officials have also felt the impact of "Gordon" being headhunted. There have been invitations to take less demanding jobs elsewhere for salaries well in excess of what the individuals concerned are getting today. Officials see promotion to board level as being not worth the candle.

"It all adds up to responsibility without fair reward, as well as without power."

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Wall St again beats trading record

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 20

Share trading volumes on United States stock exchanges are daily setting new records as the Dow Jones industrial share index surges upward towards the 1,000 level, which has not been reached since January, 1973.

Wall Street today broke its trading volume record for the second consecutive day, with 44.31 million shares changing hands compared with yesterday's 39.21 million.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 12.04 points up at 987.80, after having risen 15.67 points yesterday.

Brokers report increasing evidence of strengthening investor confidence. A further boost to sentiment was provided today with the news that American business prices had risen for the first time in 18 months, by only 0.2 per cent in January to register the smallest monthly gain since July, 1973.

But dealers emphasized that the lack of buyers rather than real selling pressure and they do not expect heavy falls next week in what is still essentially a firm market.

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Bank call for societies to cut rates

By Margaret Stone

A long range warning was delivered to the building societies movement last night by one of Britain's senior bankers.

Mr Deryk Weyer, senior general manager of Barclays Bank, said last night that he hoped that building societies would reduce their investment rates to avoid increasing the cost of bank funds to industry.

He added that it would be a matter of concern if competition between the banks and the building societies for deposits had the ultimate effect of diverting the supply of funds from industry to the societies or making those funds more expensive.

Mr Weyer did make the particular point of reminding the building societies movement that "there was a time not so long ago when we restrained our deposit interest so as not to embarrass the building societies".

But he said the deal could not be completed until it had been agreed by the debenture holders and creditors. The banks will consider the offer next Wednesday.

It is understood that the offer involves the purchase of the factory buildings for £750,000. This would give Mr Titcombe immediate access. He would then lease the plant and equipment and be licensed to operate them.

At the same time he would contract to find the balance of the total purchase price—about £3m—within 90 days.

A rival consortium represented by Mr Peter Constantine, Cardiff, told Mr Morgan yesterday that they might be expected to put their bid before him some time next week.

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Felixstowe to consider new bid by Ferries

By John Breunan

Mr Keith Wickenden, chairman of European Ferries, confirmed that the £6.8m offer for Felixstowe Dock and Railway, announced on Thursday, is "significantly higher" than the conditional terms rejected by the board last week.

Once they receive the formal offer documents, the port's directors are to reconsider their opposition to the ferry group's bid, which counters the £5.24m takeover offer by the British European Dock Board.

European Ferries is offering five of its ordinary shares for every two of Felixstowe's ordinary stock units. Yesterday European Ferries shares dipped 2p to 70p, while Felixstowe's stock rose 10p to 155p.

Felixstowe's shareholders will receive an additional 15p cash per share if the bid is promoted by the docks board to enable it to carry out its bid.

The Bill has had a very slow passage through Parliament so far, being the subject of a number of blocking motions and proposals for amendment. As it is a private, rather than a government-backed motion, the Government may have to permit time for its debate if the Bill is to be passed by July or August, the date suggested by the docks board.

European Ferries, which is one of the largest users of the Felixstowe docks, decided to go ahead with its bid, despite the board's opposition, after discussions with port employees.

At a meeting on Wednesday members of the port's union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, voted to take a neutral line on both the docks board's and European Ferries' bids.

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Agreement to harmonize export credit conditions

By Brussels, Feb 20

Six industrialized nations, including Britain, the United States and Japan, have reached a tentative agreement on harmonizing export credit conditions, including interest rates and maturities.

The sources said the agreement, subject to government approval, was hammered out last week by experts of Britain, the United States, Japan, France, West Germany and Italy meeting in Paris.

The agreement is aimed at avoiding any competitive outbidding on export credit terms among the world's main export nations.

The sources said that under the tentative agreement reached in Paris, all six nations broadly agreed not to go beyond an interest rate of 7.5 per cent for any official export credit extended up to five years and a minimum rate of 8 per cent for credits running longer than five years.

The agreement also stipulates that the export element in an export credit can be considered as official economic aid.

Export credit financing of satellite ground stations, shipbuilding and of aircraft is understood to have been excluded from the agreement.

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